

# **Board of Stewards**

## **Minutes-May 18, 2023**

**Board members present:** Steve Waters, Roger Lind, Dan St. Romain, Doran Dennis, Brian Griffin, Johnny Boyd, Charles Johnson, Jack Rodgers, Amy Willcox

**Absent:** David Kinder, Carol Cauley, Dianne Dorsett, Scott Boynton, Brian Nash, Pat Crump

**Staff members present:** Jason Adams, Robert Ortiz, Donna Strieb, Darrell Smith, Ryan Jacobson, Janet Weatherston, Linda Baumheckel, Valerie Slade, Jeff Guillory

**Staff members absent:** Chris Estus

**Secretary:** Leah Jayne

**Church Members visiting:** Kathryn Bassett and Helen Groos

**Welcome-**Dan St. Romain opened the meeting at 5:30 pm and welcomed all. He asked Janet Weatherston to lead the board in prayer.

**Prayer-**Janet shared from I Corinthians 3:6-7 that God is what makes a ministry grow. She extended an invitation to all to pray in person or on zoom with her and others for God's guidance in Mission Central on Wednesday evenings in W102 at 5 pm.

**Approval of April Minutes-** Dan asked the Board to review the minutes. He asked if there were any corrections or additions needed. There were none so he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Johnny Boyd moved to approve the minutes and Steve Waters seconded.

**Introduction of Linda Baumheckel** – Valerie Slade introduced Linda Baumheckel, who is our newest minister and will be taking over Ryan Jacobson's position as Pastor of Congregational Care. Linda shared her background and current personal responsibilities.

Valerie gave an update on the Assistant Director of Music position. The candidate the church made an offer to, declined the position. So, the job is still posted and has received several good resumes from applicants. The search continues for the right applicant.

She also shared that Darrell Smith will be on sabbatical starting after the Conference in Corpus Christi and return around the middle of August.

**Finance Report-**April was a very good month. There have been 23 new givers and a few households who have completed their pledges ahead of time. Program Directors have been diligent in keeping costs down. The new postage machine contract is less than the prior contract and the rain is preventing the need to use the irrigation system. This all equals less money being spent.

Charles Johnson asked if it was unusual to have people pay their pledge ahead of time. Valerie said it is not unusual and Jeff pointed out a month in 2022 when this previously occurred.

The question came up about inviting people who faithfully attend the church and support it financially to become members. Jason shared a method he has used in the past of having a membership drive for these people, so they can unite with a group on Pentecost Sunday. Due to Pentecost being on Memorial Day weekend he is going to consider having a Sunday in the fall for the event.

**Trustees Report**-Steve said the Trustees sent a response to an offer received on the corner lot with twenty-five-line items. Twenty-four were approved by the interested party, but one they did not want to allow. Scott Boynton and the broker explained the church's position and what it is trying to accomplish. They seemed to have a positive response to the explanation.

**Senior Pastors Comments**-Jason shared there were 30 churches who left at the Called Conference on May 6, 2023. There are a total of 300 churches in the conference. This change leaves AHUMC as the flag ship of the conference and he feels blessed to be the leader of the church.

Charles asked if the churches who are disaffiliating get the property. Jason said yes, they do because that is part of the disaffiliation agreement. The disaffiliating churches must pay their apportionments for two years, the unfunded pension liability, and the salary of their pastors who are staying United Methodist.

There are a few churches who are refusing to pay and are now in a lawsuit with the conference.

Robert said there will be new church plants in the areas that no longer have a church.

**Recognition of Rev. Dr. Robert Ortiz**- Dan shared his thoughts about Robert and his time serving at AHUMC. Robert, through his time at Asbury and the change to AHUMC, has been a grounded person who is skilled at building community. The conference needs someone like Robert at this time who has a calm spirit and will help during this transition.

Robert shared his appreciation of how the church has blessed him and his family. He did not know what to expect when he arrived, but soon made friends with people outside of his usual circle. He also said thanked AHUMC for supporting him through his doctorate candidacy.

**Questions/Answer Time**-Roger asked when the plans for the landscape improvements would be shared. Jason said we are waiting for the best time and do not want to have too many projects going at the same time.

Helen asked when we can clean up the rolls. Valerie said a new member, Lisa Warren is working on the membership list showing who is active and who is inactive. After the membership roll she will work on the prospects list.

Dan asked Robert to give the closing prayer.

Meeting ended at 6:37 pm