

Alamo Heights UMC
Board of Stewards Minutes
September 21, 2023

Board members present: David Kinder, Roger Lind, Carol Cauley, Dianne Dorsett, Doran Dennis, Brian Griffin, Johnny Boyd, Charles Johnson, Scott Boynton, Brian Nash, Jack Rodgers, Pat Crump

Absent: Steve Waters, Dan St. Romain, Amy Willcox

Staff Present: Jason Adams, Donna Strieb, Darrell Smith, Valerie Slade

Secretary: Laura Peel (for Leah Jayne)

Welcome - David Kinder welcomed the group at 5:33 p.m.

Prayer - was given by Donna Strieb

Approval of August Minutes

Diane Dorsett asked a question about approval of the May minutes at the August BOS meeting – she wanted to clarify the correction Carol Cauley asked for in the Finance Committee minutes. It was clarified that Carol was asking about the Finance Report, not the minutes.

Roger Lind moved to approve the August minutes.

Brian Griffin seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved.

Finance Report

Valerie Slade reported for Jeff Guillory. Things are looking good in finance. We ended the month of August over and received over 32k in revenue receipts. We are seeing a good trend in receipts. Household giving is up by 1 household since this time last year. Expenses came in 8K under than planned. We have had a lot of activity in August with fall activities gearing up again. Year-to-date our deficit is \$160k better than expected. ***See attached detailed report.**

Foundation

A. Growth Team report

Roger Lind

Roger reported on the communication plan for the Foundation Growth Team. ***See the attached handout for the specifics on the Growth Team's plan.**

Jack Rodgers shared that the leadership Roger Lind has brought to the team is excellent.

B. Foundation website

Darrell Smith

Darrell talked about the current Foundation website vs. the new website. He explained the different pieces of the Foundation website and took the group through the new website in a visual presentation. Donate button will be on every page. The page is about 95% done; still working with the Foundation team. A new GIVE page went live today. It also has info about the Foundation. It now keeps people on our website, rather than taking them another page to give.

Lunch Bunch 50th Anniversary

Donna Strieb reported that Lunch Bunch is preparing to celebrate their 50th anniversary on Thursday, Sept 28. They are very excited that they have been able to be in this ministry for this long. It is an outreach ministry. A wonderful sense of community and fellowship has developed in this group over the many years. This year they gained 5 new ministry partners for a total of 42 people involved serving in the Lunch Bunch ministry.

Lunch Bunch has been a wonderful gift to our church and to the community. Donna invited all of the BOS members to attend the luncheon. Comms team has done a wonderful job with all of the promotional material for the celebration. It will be a wonderful celebration!

Senior Pastor's Comments

Jason gave highlights: In the 2nd week of our Community Dinner. Getting fall programming kicked off & it's going well. Prayers it continues to grow. Very successful Membership Sunday on Sept 17. We had people join in every service. We have lots of people visiting regularly. So far for the year, we have had around 60 adults join, with another 15 or so children. Have to have the guests in order to get the members. Our members are feeling encouraged by the growth. This Sunday (Sept 24) children's choir & youth singing. Giving away 3rd grade bibles. Whole month of October will be consecration month. Encourage tithing for the entire month rather than just on the one giving Sunday.

Nominations coming in October for BOS.

Charge conference will be in early January. Rev. Dr. Robert Ortiz coming to every church to meet. Annual Pumpkin Patch & the Fall Harvest Festival coming in October.

Jason shared that he often gets asked when we are bringing back the 9:45am service in the Sanctuary. We have a large online number; it's like we have a 3rd service. People are watching. We can be thankful that people are connecting.

Jack Rogers asked about the tours that Jason mentioned he sometimes gives to people visiting. Are they happening already? Jason explained that it's more just in passing when talking with new members.

Questions/Answer Time

David Kinder did a presentation. Watching online this past Sunday, he was struck by the number of people present vs. where we were a year ago. Church was facing an existential crisis this time last year. Existentialists believe that an existential crisis is a journey, an awareness and necessary. David was struck with that it was all necessary as part of God's plan for us to go through this journey and for us to learn from it. The holidays are upon us. Before we get too caught up in the holidays, David wants us to think about what does it mean to us that we were able to come through this existential crisis? We should celebrate what we went through and where we are today. David thanked the staff and the BOS members for their part in that. And he thanks God every day for that.

Charles Johnson – question about the ground lease. Where are we on this? Jason replied we are in the weeds. Still in negotiations. We can ask Steve Waters to report on this at next month's meeting.

Roger Lind asked about how we as a board need to be pulling on the same end of the rope as Jason & his vision for this congregation. Jason answered that he did not have a grand plan. There was already a plan in action through the Holy Spirit.

Welcoming Ministry in place to work on welcoming new members. How do we help support? Jason hopes to see all BOS members set the example in welcoming.

Closing Prayer - Darrell Smith closed the meeting in prayer at 6:25 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 19, at 5:30 pm in W100

AHUMC Board of Stewards August 2023 Financial Explanation

August was a good month both in terms of income and expenses. Total receipts for the month came in a bit over expectations. The monthly actuals were \$234k which was \$6k over plan. Interest income continued at almost double what we had planned due to the higher interest accounts changes. Facility usage was above plan with the month of August pushing the year-to-date numbers above budget. We also saw plate cash numbers at 50% more than expected. The household giving report shows us a few good trends with the number of households maintaining similar levels to last year and continued repeat givers. Per capita giving was 40% higher in August of 2023 than 2022 at \$606 per household. The average per capita giving at this point in the year was higher than all 3 prior year averages for a similar period. If we compare our income for 2023 to 2022, we find some other good indicators. General contributions are 6.8% higher year-to-date compared to 2022 and total receipts are 7.7% higher when we exclude the foundation's support. We ended August with total receipts being \$32k above budget for the year.

On the expense side we saw savings for the month with expenses coming in \$8k under plan. Primarily savings came from the continual reduction we'll see in the Salaries and Benefits category, but overall, most categories were right in line with budget. Maintenance held on to reduced electric and gas charges. Experimentation with boiler usage created savings in our gas bill and building automation continues to provide efficiency in our electric bill. August had a 6% improvement in electric efficiency when compared to August of 2022. A large water bill reduced much of the savings from the category, so maintenance ended up on budget. We saw \$1,800 in savings from the Communication department, which shows the department is keeping their promise of reducing spend. Primarily overages in the expense section came from programs. As different programs are ramping back up, we're seeing change in spending coming from Worship, and Youth programs so far. The CLC band is back, and children's choir directors are in full form with other sanctuary worship expenses such as substitute organists and music purchases raising program costs. As a way to make the campus more inviting, multiple departments enhanced the décor of the church with acrylic photo walls and decals. Expenses for a youth mission trip to Freer, TX and youth fellowship nights were some of the other activities that added to the program's budget this month.

Overall, we ended the month with a net surplus of -\$27k which put us \$14k ahead of our monthly plan. Year-to-date our deficit is \$160k better than expected.

AHUMC Foundation Growth Team
2023-2024 Foundation Communication Plan

September 5, 2023

Strategy

All of our communication, whether narrowly or broadly targeted, is primarily intended to “plant the seed” of encouraging people to include the Foundation in their estate planning.

Communication Channels, Target Audiences

I. September - Foundation Web Page Completion

A. Objective: Because all communication will direct readers/listeners to the web page, it will provide a central repository for Foundation information.

B. Features:

1. Foundation History Timeline
2. Updated video
3. Donation information and alternatives
4. Ministries photos
5. Information regarding Memorial Gifts, Honor Gifts

II. October - Regular Communication with Worship Attendees and Online Participants

A. Objective: Continually communicate the Foundation story with worshippers

B. Communication Vehicles:

1. Monthly bulletin insert communication
2. Sliders (Screen notifications)
3. Church news page/news letter
4. Quarterly announcements/features (e.g. video)
 - a. All Saints Sunday

III. November – Thursday Lunch Bunch Presentation

A. Objective: Significant Foundation donations have been received from Thursday Lunch Bunch participants, whose primary connection with the church has been through this ministry. This presentation will afford us the opportunity to share the Foundation story with folks who otherwise might not hear it.

B. Sponsor Lunch on a Thursday (TBD) in November

C. Communication Vehicles:

1. Updated Foundation video
2. Brief oral presentation
3. Provide printed information for attendees to take away

IV. 2024 – Foundation Dinner

- A. Objective: Host a dinner, open to all, for the purpose of telling the Foundation story and inviting members to consider supporting AHUMC in perpetuity through planned giving to the Foundation.

V. Identify and Train Individuals for Individual Conversations with Prospective Donors

The Board further recommends the initiation of administrative processes for the purpose of continually showing appreciation to Foundation donors. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- A. Communication with donors on significant anniversaries (e.g. birthdays, anniversaries of loved ones' deaths)
- B. Communication with individuals who have established named funds, when donations are made to such funds.