

Board of Stewards Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 10, 2020

Our meeting opened with prayer.

The October minutes were approved.

The November 10 Agenda was approved.

Finance: Dave Brodhead reported that our financials are acceptable, much due to the fact that we received PPP grant. What our concern needs to be from this point forward is that giving has decreased. We cannot continue to expect income where it has declined steadily over several years.

A question was raised if we would be able to identify which generation or age group is carrying the bulk of our financial needs. Pastor Bobbie said that we would have access to that information and would be able to generate that report with the software that we currently have but for the fact that we have not been able to secure from the congregation their dates of birth. The same challenge is with accurate emails and text messages. The church, despite efforts to collect the information, has not kept their records updated.

Pastor Bobbie reported that it is typical for an Advent letter to be send to the full congregation each season of Advent. It asks for a designated offering to benefit the Methodist Children's Home and the Methodist Adoption Services through Providence Place. The Board agreed to keep the beneficiaries the same for this year. Pastor Bobbie will see that the letter goes out.

The MWDCD Income/Expense and Reserved Account Reports are in great shape.

Trustee Topics:

Pastor Bobbie reported that due to the National Boy Scouts of America's bancrupsy filing, all United Methodist churches who've had or have scouting troops are required to file a Proof of Claim. Pastor Bobbie has all the information, it is acceptable for the pastor to sign the form, and it can be done online. She will submit the form on behalf of the church.

Pastor Bobbie shared with the board that at the leadership conference she attended in September, one of the workshops was about long-term financial planning for churches. The workshop used a spreadsheet that tracked all facility purchases from carpets to roofs. The spreadsheet, once completed on all assets, would contain purchase dates, warranty info, replacement estimates, etc. The workshop was so informative she will send the link to all the stewards so that they might watch it.

Pastor Bobbie, Matt Hulon, Scott Moore (Vision Bridge Consulting) and Dane Rau (Brenham civic engineer) will be assessing the flooding causes and possible solutions on Wednesday morning, November 11.

Pastor Bobbie suggested a procedure for what to do when a church vehicle is in an accident. The form was accepted with type-o and grammatical corrections.

SPRC Topics – Nita Hyatt, Chairperson

Pastor Bobbie reported that Pastor Greg has communicated that he's doing well. He's visited different churches, most of them United Methodist, and gleaned much information about worship and welcoming ministries. He is also meeting with his clergy coach and his spiritual growth/development coach on a regular basis. His health appears to be improving as well.

The board discussed options for church staff Christmas gifts but it was tabled in order that Dave Brodhead might meet with Kris Trevino before further action.

The results of the worship survey were discussed. Several of the topics would be fodder for further surveys, such as preferred time of worship on Sunday mornings. Much of the written in comments were centered around preaching content.

Closing Comments:

Pastor Bobbie requested that an insert be made to the church and MWDC employee handbooks that detail guidelines about employee apparel. Some have been put off by displays of opinions on shirts, mugs and jewelry. The board strongly recommended that the wording be taken from a previously used employee handbook, that it be worded as "offensive" rather than "politically motivated" displays, and that it be reviewed by an attorney before admission to any of our handbooks. John Trostle will provide some optional wording and Pastor Bobbie will consult an attorney.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.