



Charge Conference / Church Council Meeting

Meeting Date: Tuesday Jan. 30

Meeting Time: 7 – 8:30 PM

Meeting Place: In Person, Wesley Hall



Mission - Love God and Neighbor, Build Community - - No Limits

- Call to Order – Dick Eisenbarth
- Breakthrough Prayer Exercise – Missy Hart and Ashley Williams
MUMC/Longleaf does love and compassion best, **RESULTS IN EMAIL**

Breakthrough Prayer

*God of new life, enliven us with **boldness** and **courage** as we follow your spirit, and **clarity** and **unity** in our community of faith, so that we may share your **love** and **compassion** with all. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.*

- Approval of November Council Meeting Minutes
The council minutes were approved.
- Committee Reports
 1. Nominations and Leadership Update
Andrea Wheeler Trustee Chair
Jim Clark Generosity Chair
 2. Generosity Status of the 2023 campaign and next steps
Dick Eisenbarth reported 183 giving units, \$916,101.28 pledged. Average pledge was \$5,006 per unit. A significant increase per average pledge. Last year we had a total 203 pledges (including new members through the year).
 3. Finance
 - a. Finance report – year end 2023
Year end 2023 total contributions year to date \$1,085,116 – below budget. Contributions decreased by \$71,000. Revenues increased by \$52,156 from 2022. Tuition was below budget by \$90,000 but offset by a grant which was \$91,000 more than budget. Program and ministries were \$263,000 -- \$11,000 below budget. Personnel excluding LL \$12,000 below budget. Church mortgage reduced by \$200,000. The 2023 total revenue was \$2,194,000 -- \$75,000 below budget. The expenses were \$46,000 over budget. Church fund had an operating deficit of \$200,000.

- b. Highlights of the 2024 budget
Starting with a positive of \$29,000 – should be balanced this year including conference grant.
\$200,000 grant was largest in the conference – we were blessed to have that. We have to work to stay on top of that this year and we also have to grow. It was given to help us grow our ministries at MUMC/Longleaf. LL projecting more income. All ministries doing pretty well. Start with \$30,000 and build on that. We don't know if we will get a grant next year.
- c. Approval of the 2024 budget.
2024 budget approved.

Trustees report – potential rental properties

Andrea Wheeler – announcements. John Hougendobler helping on the side with safety talk at services. Parking lot striped by MUM. 2 AED's replaced. 15 people trained on them...working on 20 additional to be trained, especially summer camp employees. 2 Eagle scout projects completed on campus. 8 picnic tables replaced in back, in butterfly garden, planters and bench added.

Rental opportunity – Team Chemistry, non-profit basketball group that wants to use gym. Want to work on instilling respect, responsibility, volunteer on campus. Looking at Mondays and Thursdays 5:30-9:30, including set up and clean up. Want to get teams involved with set up, clean up, sweeping, cleaning bathrooms. Not upstairs, concession stand, Wesley hall, or worship center. Looking for an additional date if nothing going on here. Start March 4th, after Upward, \$2,500 per month – up to 9 hours per week for max. Haven't talked about a minimum.

- o Have we talked about how much it costs to run the gym. Hard to put an amount depending on day of week. 9 hours per week for four weeks comes out to about \$65 per hour – if it costs more than that to run the gym we need to think about the price. If that is not offsetting it, then it will cost us more. Do we have a contract? We are working on a lease contract. They will work around summer camp. Lease will probably be year to year. Point of reference for cost is if this ran for 10 months would be \$25,000, our whole utility built for a whole year for all utilities is \$65,000 a year. Who handles liability. They would have to have insurance, \$1 million additional insurance and they have that. For injury or facility? General liability, that's with us as additional insured on the policy. And it will be submitted to tax office to make sure. How much does pickleball pay to play? Pickleball covers their costs to play. Has the group already been created or working on it? They are already created and non-profit status was approved. What gym was it? We don't know. Referred to us through

a River of Life church member. How does this fit into the mission of our church? A community outreach to children, youth and adults in our area. Instilling values and helping with the church. Work together as a group and build community. Where do they get their team members from? We think they live around here. Ages 8-17. We discussed CYP policies and their policies are in line. They will have background checks on leaders. 5-6 adults per training session. Locked into a year lease? Could it be shorter? March 4th through December when we begin Upward again. More like a 9-month lease. Can we run a 3-month trial lease? Built into the lease that if there is a problem the lease is breakable, exit strategy. John Hougendobler and Joe Pickles working on the lease.

Jim Clark moved to approve the lease. Mike Overton second the motion. The lease was approved.

4. Staff Parish

First SPR meeting Feb 6. Holding off until after finance for budget. 3 new members, Linda Armstrong, John Russell, Alex Wann. Kim Cooke rolling off. Just reviewed the church profile and completed it with help from all pastors. Revamp of the personnel manual. Adding Juneteenth to holiday schedule and removing confusing sections added over time. Working on moving forward with advertising positions for summer camp.

- Pastors/Staff reports

1. Communicating the "State of the Church"

- a. Quarterly review that could be shared with the Council and the congregation in some way

- Pastor Britt – the Generosity team has talked about how we convey the stories of ministry and connect it to people's giving and has led to videos in the past year, and paragraphs in the bulletin as we share info. We reflected on what we did in the autumn, shared a statement that there was some uncertainty about how many pastors, both campuses and we did info sessions to follow up. The GC had a question on how we could move forward with that because there was positive feedback from those info sessions. In the Finance meeting, there was also conversation about what kind of quarterly review should we do in the middle of the year about our finances, whether we are on track. What if we paired those together and had on a quarterly basis shared finance info and alongside it shared insights from ministry or numbers from ministry to inform the congregation how we're doing. Does that feel like a good idea? If that sounds good, we thought it would be good to

get ideas from the council about the format and info in the report. Handout passed out to everyone that asks for ideas to be turned in.

First quarterly info would be in April.

2. Moving forward in mission

a. Update on the Summer Camp initiative and planning

- Angie Engelthaler & Paula Coker-Jones – In the process of planning first summer day camp. Completed different task. Staff parish working on job descriptions. Researched what others are doing and what we liked and didn't like. We are looking for a top notch person because we are operating how we want it to be in 10 years on Day 1. Developing job descriptions for workers, volunteer programs for completed 8th to 10th then move into part time staff, to full time staff. Developing the program. Paula has been working on partnering with a church that was toured to look at curriculum they use. Looking at each week's themes to make sure they are biblically sound. Program will consist of arts & craft, music, drama, bible, peace room with quiet play and fun – indoor and outdoor games. Angie – where is everyone at during the day – detailed schedules. We are offering the kids to purchase a hot lunch package. Talking to Chick Fil A, McDonald's, Marco's pizza, to provide food for the kids one or two days per week. Working on Brightwheel that is a computer program to use during the camp. Currently being used at Learning Ladders, children are checked in and out, workers check in and out, time sheets are done, registrations are done. Working on designing our T-shirts. Angie and Paula meet every Thursday to work on summer camp. Receiving emails asking about summer camp through word of mouth. About to put it on website and in newsletter. There is certain training that a summer camp director has to have and Angie and Paula have been taking the classes and tests. When we talk about training, we will know how the staff is required to be trained by DCF.

b. Upward participation

Pastor Britt – There are 370 athletes between basketball and cheer participating in Upward – highest that's ever been. 6 high school teams – never had 6 high school teams before. That's a possible way we can engage further in mission.

- c. Joint collaboration with River of Life UMC for Holy Week and youth activities with Longleaf and Mandarin

The potluck at River of Life was a good time of fellowship with MUMC/Longleaf and River of Life. Afterwards, River of Life was enthusiastic about doing more shared opportunities, including Holy Week services. It helps to broaden our community, helping to remember a vision to invite our whole community to be part of a worship. Maundy Thursday service will take place at MUMC regarding the 7 last words of Christ. The Good Friday service will be hosted at River of Life.

- d. Review of Longleaf Discipleship teams (Know, Grow and Go)

- Dick – as Church Council Chair I thought it would be good to be using the same wording on both campuses – Know, Grow and Go
- Pastor Jeff - handout on tables with Longleaf Mission and Vision. We wanted to plan journey of discipleship for our church family. Know – we began with community events. Meet people where they are at. Fresh Expressions. Grow – focused on worship and small groups. We wanted to have 200 adults in small groups before we launched – which led to 600 people on our launch date, Easter 2019. Go – community mission work. This is the DNA of who Longleaf is. Discipleship 101. The journey we are on together. As you can see on the other side of that process, we had a proposal and a grant was provided from the conference. You will see the areas we are focusing on this year for the metrics of that conference funding. Last week we had a kickoff of the Know, Grow, Go Team and we have 3 new chair people for those committees – Hether Celetti, Dawn & Scott Ahrendt and Sarah Teixeira. All met with a lot of vigor last week. Looking forward to see what God will do through this team.

- e. Mandarin 2024 Missions task group development to mirror Longleaf's Know, Grow and Go. Start as task group to consider implementation

Dick – what we have been doing at MUMC is building our services on Sunday and growing the ministries. We are great at missions, how can we build on missions into the community. The church is a building in a mission field and how do we go out into the mission field and reach more people, build community in small groups. We

will be working closely with the pastors to see how we can work together toward this goal.

3. 150 year celebration task group – status of team working on this initiative
 - Britt – we need to work on the most boldness and clarity. Moving into 2024, how do we move into more effective mission, identifying one or two things either to start or grow deeper in. Notice at Upward there's possibility. What would it look like to develop that. Engaging with families and inviting them to other events at the church like the camp out. What would we do to deepen those relationship? We would like to form a group to lead us as a congregation in reflecting and develop a plan to survey, focus groups and help rise up with a little more clarity of what we are being called to as we move forward. Starting in May 2020, I started a doctorate of ministry program. I've finished almost all the coursework. There's one more elective I have to do some time this year. The last thing will be dissertation around practical ministry. The proposal was related to this – in 30 words – how can MUMC, after experiences of conflict and loss, find renewed focus and identify to deepened missional engagement with the community. Develop a process by creating a team to discern what we would like to grow deeper in. That would be our hope at our next council meeting, that that group would be established. I would also like your permission that if that develops, that I could write that up as my dissertation for my doctorate. Obviously seeking the appropriate permissions to do that.

Council approves Britt to do his dissertation on this subject.

- December 7, 1874 first worship service at Mandarin. We will we come to that sesquicentennial celebration. Opportunity to celebrate and mark where we are in our mission. There's one more team that we would like to gather to think about this. Ward Clayton agreed to be historian this year and in the 150th year. He is willing to use his gifts of writing and communicating in different ways. Suellen Kinsley (and Janson Kinsley) is willing to chair a group to form a celebration for the 150th. This group will think about how to celebrate, mostly in the autumn. You can share any ideas for this celebration on the previous handout. If anyone is interested in the project and would like to help, put your name on the sheet for that as well. This will be celebrated at this year's Annual Conference. We have info on guidelines for making a banner. We need to think

about who could help us with a banner, what groups could work on the design of the banner.

- Adjournment – Dick Eisenbarth
- Next council meeting, Tuesday, April 23rd
- July 23rd
- Sept 24
- Dec 3rd

- Prayer concerns, joys and closing prayer – Pastor Jeff

Elizabeth Hurley passed glucose tolerance test

Britt's positive progress

Extended Trawick family, lost nephew, niece thyroid cancer, great granddaughter heart monitor, family member in ER

Carolyn Rahaim's funeral this Saturday at 11am, prayers for Tommy

Jeff's mom, Susan, going through health issues

Dkoa's scans next Monday, will be 21 yrs old and cut from current doctors, looking for a new primary care doctor before Feb 12

Dick's BIL, Ed, complications with cancer

Youth with special issues going on – as well as the congregation

Meeting ended at 8:43pm