

Ministry Council Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2021

Attending: Rev. Jason Valendy, Judy Belter, Melanie Grice, Diane Whetson, Bob Whetson, Emie Stewart, Dave Burke, Mike Miller, Keith Bierley, Julie Sizemore, Emily Stansberger

Agenda:

1. Opening scripture/prayer Jason 10 minutes

Old Business:

2. Protocol updates Jason 5 minutes
3. Estee's leave status Jason 5 minutes
4. Sunday schedule roll out Jason 5 minutes

New Business;

5. Dan Hernandez candidacy process Jason 5 minutes
6. KUMC Church Conference 12/5 Jason 5 minutes

The following times are for each leader to use (more or less) as he/she sees fit;

7. Stewardship Plan Mike 10 minutes
8. Youth Ministry Update Emily/Sara 10 minutes
9. Trustee Update Bob 10 minutes
10. UMW Update Julie 10 minutes
11. Shadowing/training Dave 10 minutes
12. Finance Report Emie 5 minutes
13. SPR Update Keith 5 minutes

14. Closing Prayer ALL

Judy called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

Opening Scripture/Devotion

Jason shared a passage from I Corinthians, Chapter 4. Most groups he has been a part of define themselves by something they have. Paul and his companions suggest the Christian community are the trash of the world. What defines them is not what they have, but what they lack. We acknowledge that we have a shared lack and that is what pulls us together. A similar bond is found in AA, a shared understanding that they lack and that binds them together in community. How do we affirm our church as a gathered community? We can acknowledge that we are all broken, lacking, and in need of grace.

Protocol Updates

Jason has not personally heard any pushback from the new protocols, with people self-selecting and either staying home or wearing masks as they feel appropriate.

Diane said her granddaughter is being tested for COVID after a week in school. It was difficult to even schedule an appointment at Cook Children's for her because they had so many cases of COVID. Mike added that it's in the news how many kids are testing positive.

Jason recommended keeping with the current protocols, reminding people of best practices.

Bob recommended referencing the flowchart often to remind people when to stay home.

Children's activities are not scheduled to resume until September.

Judy asked her Sunday school class of about 30 people about their feelings about the protocols. There were a wide range of opinions. She feels what we are doing now accommodates varied opinions.

Dave said people are more informed now than they were a year ago and feel more equipped to make decisions.

Jason asked if we should continue re-evaluating every month and continue announcing that that is the process.

Mike said with most schools opening that we need to continue evaluating regularly.

Estee's Leave Status

Jason said that Estee wrote a report and shared with SPR. She wanted to be held to account for the work that she is doing.

Sunday Schedule Rollout

Jason reported that the incorporation of 10:00 activities continues to roll out. There have been steady increases in numbers attending both the 9 and 11 worship times in person. Livestream numbers are holding steady.

Judy asked about feedback regarding the time changes for worship. Jason has not heard any yet. He thinks even with an 11:15 start, the service will still be done around 12:05 and will not cause much disruption in lunch schedules. He believes people will stay if they find what is happening meaningful and important.

Jason plans to lead a small group with the stewardship book in October at the 10:30 time.

Dan Hernandez Candidacy Process

Dan has shared that he would like to begin the ordination process to become a licensed, local pastor. He will meet with SPR, which will vote on whether to recommend him to the charge/church conference.

Church Conference

The District does a group Charge Conference. Philip Rhodes is our new District Superintendent and inherited a schedule from the previous DS when he was installed July 1. He gave KUMC permission to opt out of the Charge Conference and have our own Church Conference. We requested the 10am time to have our Church Conference. Philip gave special permission to have the meeting on December 5 without his attendance.

Melanie will receive all the forms for the Church Conference and distribute URL's to various chairs and lay leaders to complete. They will be due on November 15.

Emie asked who presides in the DS's absence. Both Estee and Jason are allowed to preside as elders with permission from the DS.

Updates

Judy gave everyone time in the agenda, which they are welcome to use if needed this evening.

Stewardship Update

Mike said in years past we have tried different methods of stewardship campaigns. He wants to go back to our roots, with cards and a sermon series. He wants to bring a level of comfort and simplicity to the process. This year's theme will be based on the book *Life Together*. The campaign will begin September 26, when letters will be sent to the congregation with commitment cards. He would like to shoot a video with Dave before the beginning of October. He wants to use the Ministry Moment time in worship with Mike starting and then ask other speakers to make videos over the next several weeks.

Julie liked the idea of different voices talking about stewardship.

Mike said he appreciates the openness of the Methodist church on where money is going and why gifts are necessary.

Dave likes the idea of bringing Ministry Moments back. He recommended bringing different aspects of ministry to worship instead of just money asks. He doesn't want to condition the church to think that when a lay person goes up front, that the focus is on money.

Judy said we should focus on other aspects such as prayer and witness, not just on giving.

Keith said we should consider tying in the stewardship campaign with the anniversary celebration being planned for next year.

Bob asked if there are any plans for incorporating the stewardship campaign into small groups. Jason said there will be a study companion guide available for any group that wants to use it. Judy suggested having people available, such as Emie as Finance Chair, to answer specific questions.

Jason said he has not found it helpful to set specific monetary goals. Rather than focusing on a dollar amount, he wants to focus on the number of pledges and try to increase the number of giving units. He has asked Mike to help analyze historic giving and call people who have previously given as the campaign wraps up. Mike is also pulling together a task force to assist with a quick turnaround for thank you notes.

Youth Ministry Update

Emily said they are working on more involvement, particularly in Collide. Meetings have been in person for the most part. There have been some rising 7th graders joining. Youth Council is planning to meet Wednesday to discuss connection groups.

Trustees Update

Bob reported that the Trustees received a response from McLaren's on the hail claim. Berkley is our insurance carrier, managed by Marsh brokers. McLaren's was hired by Berkley as the claims adjustor. McLaren's hired DBI, a construction company, and UBSE. There is some disagreement between McLaren's and the Trustees. Bob has met with Mike Ratterree, our HVAC contractor. He agrees with the scope of what needs to be repaired, but disputes the replacement cost valuation. There is about a \$30K discrepancy. Brad from J&R Roofing, our roofing contractor, disagrees with both the scope and the replacement cost valuation from McLaren's. They are not including the flat roofing over the DAC and FLC. Wes Edison, an insurance broker and KUMC member, recommended not getting a public adjustor. He suggested engaging with Marsh and our broker there, Kevin Daniel. We have weather reports and other documentation on our side. The roof on the FLC was replaced in 2011 due to hail damage. Bob will research the roof manufacture and warranty information on both the FLC (replaced 2011) and the DAC (installed 2015).

Judy asked about other damage, such as stucco. Bob said the scope looks OK on other damage, but there is still disagreement on replacement cost.

UMW Update

Julie talked about the focus of UMW. They led a pocket change collection in May that raised \$2600 for education enrichment program at United Community Centers. When women give money to the local UMW, 40% stays here and 60% is sent to the national organization. Most of the local money was not spent last year due to the pandemic. KUMC UMW decided to do a grant program to give up to \$500 for programs that help women and children. So far 5 grants have been given and 1 is still available. The local chapter hosted a Mission U day of fellowship for other chapters of UMW. Sharing the Joy will be November 13 and 14, with vendors and food trucks. All the money raised by the vendors (such as Congo Restoration) is kept by the vendors. Nine circles are currently meeting with 110 total members.

Shadowing/Training Program

Dave said this is the season for Lay Leadership to find prospects to replace those who are rolling off of committees at the end of the year. New people have been appointed and have started shadowing for all positions except Ministry Council Chair.

Rey Gonzalez was asked last year to put together a program to train people coming into leadership positions, particularly on standing committees, to help them be more effective in their roles. Church staff members are participating in the first part of the training. Lay leadership committee members will go through leadership training next.

Dave plans to develop a new committee of congregation members who will pair with staff members responsible for different ministries. These partners will meet with the lay leader to report on needs and successes of each area. This information will then be shared with the various committees, which will help us become more aware of how these ministry areas are doing.

Judy asked about timing for training. Dave said the training would be after people join the committees.

Finance Update

Emie reported that expenses are going up as we return to in-person worship and activities, but still in line with the budget. The committee unanimously agreed to hold the cash reserve in abeyance until more information is available about the hail claim.

SPRC Update

Keith reported that SPRC members met with executive directors and asked about their staffing needs and vision for their departments.

The committee is starting the budgeting process, which is always difficult without knowing all information, such as insurance rates and who will utilize the insurance.

Pastors fill out self evaluation forms, which are shared with SPRC. The committee reviews them and add their own evaluations. The forms are then all sent to the conference as part of the pastor's permanent record.

Closed with Ministry Council prayer at 8:06pm.