

Alamo Heights UMC  
Board of Stewards  
Corrected-Minutes for February 16, 2023  
5:30 pm in W100

**Members Present:** Steve Waters, Roger Lind, Dianne Dorsett, Carol Cauley, Doran Dennis, Brian Griffin, Charles Johnson, Scott Boynton, Brian Nash, Amy Willcox

**Present by Zoom:** David Kinder, Dan St. Romain, Pat Crump

**Secretary:** Leah Jayne

**Staff Present:** Jason Adams, Robert Ortiz, Darrell Smith, Ryan Jacobson, Janet Weatherston, Valerie Slade

**Guests:** Sarah Smith, Vanessa Woodworth, Nona Schwab, Adam Crowell, Jackie Griffin

**Welcome** David opened the meeting at 5:31 pm. and asked Darrell Smith to give the opening prayer.

**Approval of January Minutes** Carol Cauley asked for two corrections to be made. The spelling of Gabriel Garza's first name was incorrect and the title for Enrique Guzman needed to be changed to Maintenance Supervisor. Steve Waters moved to approve the minutes and Roger Lind seconded the motion.

**Trustees Report** Steve Waters said the Trustees have not met since the last Board of Stewards meeting and are preparing for the Town Hall meeting coming up on Thursday, February 23.

**Finance Report** Dianne Dorsett said the committee is working on a fund-raising guide and requests to fund raise, will be ranked by priority. The committee did approve a fund raiser for the Arts for All Ministry to have a dinner at the church.

Valerie covered the attached financial reports giving the good news that January was ahead by \$13,000 of revenue projections and expenses were \$21,000 lower than planned. A correction was made to the number of households giving in the month of January. The report reads 293 households gave in January, but the number is 283.

Valerie is also going to keep track of the new givers to the church each month. She feels it is showing church growth by the number of new members and people who are visiting on a regular basis in person or by live streaming.

The \$93 Asbury charge on the Financial Summary is for a copier that we are under contract to pay until July. The Music department is using it until the contract ends.

The money market account interest is covering the fee for the Positive Pay program.

**Arts for All** Nona Schwab shared the dream she has had of offering an after-school arts program to children who are in the surrounding community who come from homes that have socioeconomic difficulties. She asked Vanessa Woodworth to head up the project.

Vanessa Woodworth became the project coordinator in August. The class will meet one-day a week and the hope are to have 60 students. They will start with 4 arts: bells, ukulele, creative movement, and visual art. 25% of the community 17% of the people in this community, the AHISD, have socioeconomic hardships. Alamo Heights ISD will provide buses to transport the children to the church and home after the class.

David Kinder asked how the project will be funded. Vanessa responded with fundraising events and grants. Nona said they have received \$20,000 seed money and \$10,000 from memorials. There are grants available for this type of project and Vanessa is applying for them.

With helping the children discover their artistic creativity a need has been recognized that the children will be hungry when they arrive and when they go home. Many of the homes the children come from do not have adequate means to feed their families. So, Arts and All will send them home with food to help them get by until the next week.

**SPRC** Carol Cauley introduced Sarah Smith who has been promoted to Associate Director of Communications and Adam Crowell who was promoted to Associate Technical Arts Director.

The church has hired another part-time custodian named Michael Villanueva who comes to us from Coker UMC.

The church is also in the final stage of interviewing for an assistant finance person and hoping they will begin on March 1.

**Senior Pastor's Comments** Jason said the first Early Morning Word was a success with good discussion.

He reminded everyone about next week's Town Hall meeting to discuss the ground lease.

The church needs exterior and interior maintenance. Jason would like to start Phase I, with the exterior that needs power washing, replacing the landscape that has been lost to extreme weather conditions with drought tolerant plants and other repairs. Phase II would cover the interior which would allow the church to meet ADA compliance requirements that would include access to the Choir Loft for wheelchairs and restrooms that are accessible for the handicapped to maneuver alone. He is looking into a 3-4-month capital campaign to raise approximately \$500,000 to cover the projects.

Leaders are needed to help the church go far. Jason would like the Board to attend a workshop entitled Global Leadership Summit at Grace Point Church on August 3 & 4. Pastors and directors are attending from the church and the church will pay half of the \$179 fee for the board members who would like to attend. An email will be sent out later.

**BOS Chairman** David said thankfulness is mentioned 73 times in the New Testament. He showed a video of Mr. Rogers receiving an Emmy. In the video Mr. Rogers asked the audience to take 10 seconds to think of all the people who got us to this point in our lives. David asked to also think during the 10 seconds on the video of all who have helped us. David wanted the Board to thank those who help to keep the church going.

He asked if there were any other questions. Brian Nash asked if anything had been decided regarding the funds received from the sale of Asbury. Jason explained the policy of the United Methodist Church. When a property is sold, the proceeds are only allowed to pay for a capital cost. The church is hoping to use the funds to provide the community along the San Pedro corridor with spiritual needs, job training, childcare, food, clothes, and counseling. To be a place the community can rely on to receive help.

The proceeds are probably not enough to purchase a building, so a group is looking into partnering with an organization like Methodist Healthcare Ministries. The church is waiting for the right thing at the right time. Valerie added that the ministry to that community is still going on because Janet and Sonia Gonzalez, a Wesley Nurse from Methodist Healthcare Ministries are going over weekly to hand out food, coats and other items people need.

Roger Lind asked, where are we in the Discernment process. David explained we are not going into a formal discernment process. The Board members will continue to meet with the congregation and listen to help each of them understand how to help people.

Jason said we are to do no harm and to remain a church that follows the Apostle's Creed and believes it. We need to be committed to the difficult work of love. If love were easy, it would not be a command.

David stressed we need to communicate and be more proactive.

Jason said this is one of the reasons for his early morning meeting.

Roger said his questions were answered. And if we have a quarterly Town Hall meeting this would be helpful to get into the culture and DNA of the church.

Robert Ortiz closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting closed at 6:24 pm