

**Alamo Heights UMC**  
**Board of Stewards – Agenda**  
March 21, 2024  
5:00 pm in W100

Members Present: David Kinder, James L. Smith, Doran Dennis, Charles Johnson, Valerie Slade, Jeff Guillory, Janet Weatherston, Jason Adams, Donna Strieb, Carol Cauley, Rene Kizziar, Pat Crump, Ryan Jacobson, Thad Ziegler, Johnny Boyd, Linda Baumheckel, Jack Rodgers, Darrell Smith, Laura Peel, Roger Lind (via Zoom)

Welcome David Kinder  
Called to order at 5:04pm

Prayer Darrell Smith

Approval of February Minutes David Kinder  
No corrections  
Johnny Boyd moved to approve. Doran Dennis seconded the motion.  
February minutes were approved.

Finance Report Johnny Boyd/  
Jeff Guillory  
Jeff went through the Financial Report handouts given to the board (see attached).  
He gave some highlights:  
Contributions looking good.  
Household givers report – seeing a trend in increase of # of households giving.  
(greater than the past 3 years)  
Seeing increased attendance & identified givers.  
Summary sheet: facility rental – 80% increase in this  
Total receipts: 3% higher than what we saw at this same time 2023  
Expenses: spent 17K more this period than planned. Paying delayed bills – utility  
bills, repairs, roof inspection  
Communications – increased expenses for finishing up some projects  
Total disbursements – almost 12k under planned  
Insurance: building a fund – to cover any unplanned expenses

Trustees Steve Waters  
Thad Ziegler reported that Steve Waters has the Board of Trustees in good shape.  
Jason Adams reported that the Town Hall held on March 6 went well. Concerns  
about the sale of property were addressed. Will hold another one April 21 at the 9:45  
Sunday School hour for people to attend.

Repairs will be coming to the Boiler. Waiting on parts to come in. And need to make  
the down payment.

If BOS members have people expressing concerns to them, please convey to Jason & Steve Waters.

Foundation

Roger Lind

1. Legacy Dinner – April 11 6:30 – all church dinner. Share the story of the Foundation with members.
2. Church Contribution Strategy – 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of last year, elected to reassess quarterly – value has risen dramatically. Going ahead to transfer the remaining funds to the church. Investment committee voted to de-risk distributions to the church. De-risked about 10% of the portfolio.

Renee Kizziar asked that people please RSVP to the Legacy Dinner.

Senior Pastor's Comments

Jason Adams

Happening: we as AHUMC, need to act like a mother church. For inspiration, leadership, place churches can learn from (also need to continue to learn from other churches). Want the Rio Texas Conf to remain strong. About 33 churches sued the conferences to not pay their exit expenses. The Conf countersued them. Several churches went ahead and paid. So now 27 churches remain – will be in mediation with the Conf on Wed, March 27 here at our church (in the Seminar Room). The Conference wants to showcase the best church in the Conference.

Pastor Adam Hamilton holds the 100 largest UMCs meeting once a year to discuss how things are going. Jason attended to represent our church at the meeting held in Scottsdale, AZ this year. Discussions & panels were held.

Jason shared some notes from that conference:

22,000 UMCs remaining in the U.S.

Lost 36% of our churches – disaffiliated (mostly churches in rural areas, in the South). A lot of churches, but not necessarily a lot of people.

General Conf will be held in April: There will likely be an adoption of new social principles: change will say marriage between 2 persons. Pastors will still have ability to decide if they will marry a couple or not.

Articles of Faith – will not change.

Regional social principles: will be different for US versus Africa, South Korea, other parts of the world (regionalization – not about doctrine).

General Conference is working to get away with it falling in the same year as Presidential Election. So next one will be held in 2026.

In UMC, we have General Boards/Secretaries – some are big with big budget, some small. With disaffiliations, budgets are decreased for those Boards. Working to cut their expenses. Will now be called CEOs. Working to have more transparency; good helpful things coming from these (examples are UMCOR, Project Transformation).

Adam Hamilton – lifted up, back in 2016, how divided our country became over Presidential Elections. Campaign to promote coming together, being kinder to each other. Yard signs available that show a blending of Red & Blue into purple (in a heart

design) that will say "Do Unto Others." Giving all UMCs the opportunity to participate – will give churches the materials to use in our own communities. Can put our own church logo on it. Jason will be encouraging our church to participate, take yard signs to put in yards.

Questions/Answer Time

David Kinder

Doran Dennis: let the group know that we have no ushers left to serve at funerals. Something we may need to work on.

David Kinder:

Works to find something that will move us, inspire us as a Board. He found a commencement speech Lou Holtz gave and shared parts of this speech with the group.

3 rules:

1. Do what's right. (build trust)
2. Do your best. (build commitment)
3. Show people you care. (that's our job as the church)

Our church needs to think about those things, because as we go forward other churches are looking to us.

Closing Prayer

Ryan Jacobson

Meeting closed at 5:55pm.

Next meeting-April 18 at 5 pm