

Alamo Heights UMC
Board of Stewards – Minutes
May 16, 2024
5:00 pm in W100

Members in attendance: Jason Adams, David Kinder, Roger Lind, Carol Cauley, Johnny Boyd, Doran Dennis, Brian Griffin, James L. Smith, Charles Johnson, Hill Ojeda, Thad C. Ziegler, Pat Crump (via Zoom), Amy Willcox, Janet Weatherston, Valerie Slade, Jeff Guillory, Laura Peel (secretary)

Guests in attendance: Tony Westrich, Nora Scott, Bruce Michael, Jim Hartman, Helen Groos

Welcome David Kinder
David called the meeting to order at 5:05pm

Approval of April Minutes David Kinder
No corrections
Roger Lind moved to approve. Johnny Boyd seconded the motion.
April minutes were approved.

Finance Report Johnny Boyd/
Valerie Slade

Valerie Slade reported that April receipts fell slightly short by \$8.6K. For March, we missed our projections which has put us about 31K behind for the year. But with savings in expenses, higher than projected facility fees, plate cash, and interest income we were able to partially offset the deficit. We are seeing a great uptick in large group use of our facility; groups very complimentary of our facility – puts us slightly ahead of plan in facilities for the year. Savings – converted our Assoc. Music director position to part time – savings in our Benefits budget, working towards covering our deficit. The church ended the month of April with a positive variance to projections of \$16K and YTD \$46.8K.

Trustee's Report Valerie Slade
Valerie covering for Steve Waters. Big things to report: Jason, Valerie & Steve went to District Strategic committee to get approval for sale of our parking lot property. They gave the approval needed. Trustees will continue to be in prayer & discussion about what will be done with the property.
We will be celebrating our 30-year anniversary in this property on Sunday, Sept 22, with events leading up to the Anniversary celebration. One thing that we're working on getting done – power washing the building. Needed for the health & maintenance of our building. Prior to the power washing, will need to seal cracks, especially along the roof line.

SPRC

Carol Cauley

Carol reported that Jeff Guillory, our Finance Director, will be moving on to another job opportunity. Carol thanked Jeff on behalf of the Finance Committee.

Carol reported that we have hired a replacement for Jeff. Lindsay Hannah has accepted the job and will start after Memorial Day.

Pastor Ryan Jacobson's last Sunday is June 2. There is a box in the Atrium for notes for Ryan. And the Love Offering that was approved at the last BOS meeting is receiving donations.

Pastor Reed McNitzky's first Sunday will be July 7.

Tony Westrich spoke about his project with the Men's Bible Study group that meets on Thursdays.

Good news: Calvin Reynolds & Jim Summit – met with Pastor Darrell Smith, selected studies for months to come. There will be promotion in the bulletins coordinating with Father's Day. They will take off the month of July and then will resume meeting on Aug. 8.

A couple of other items:

1. United Methodists Men's Group – Tony has been in contact with a contact out of Dallas on this / Tony meeting with Robert Ortiz & hopefully the Bishop – talk about United Methodist Men's possibility of a group here
2. Distribution of promotion district wide (Tony talking with Robert Ortiz on this)
3. Working to update technology needed

Senior Pastor's Comments

Jason Adams

General Conference – we are on the other side of it. Highlights:

- Removed harmful language regarding human sexuality, partially in regard to LGBTQ+ community / wording will now say marriage is between 2 persons.
- Candidate for ordination (if reaches all the requirements) – will ordain openly LGBTQ+ pastors / churches will still be given the option if open to receiving one.
- Pastors are now allowed to act in accordance with their conscience in performing marriage on an LGBTQ couple. Jason's direction to our wedding coordinator is that if we do have a request for an LGBTQ marriage, let pastor know. The pastor would meet with couple – could perform the ceremony off-campus if the pastor agreed to perform the ceremony.
- Basic biblical truths will still be upheld.
Jason wants us to get away from language conservative & liberal. We are a very orthodox church – if it's in the creed, we believe it.
- Social Principles – will always be differing opinions on these things. It is our love of Jesus Christ that we all hold true.
- Regionalization: Different regions will be able to pass their own social principles (Europe, Africa, SE Asia). There are different laws in different regions; must be responsive to that.
- Deacons now have sacramental rights within their own church.

- Approved sacramental rights that we will now share with our Episcopalian brothers & sisters.

Charles Johnson asked if within the US, would there be different regions or all one region. Jason said that it would be all one region.

BOS Chair's Comments

David Kinder

David thanked Jeff Guillory for all that he has done for the church in his time here.

Wanted to talk about Dreaming Big Dreams

We are now the largest UMC in the conference. By and large we are a Centrist denomination.

David thanked Tony Westrich and his group for coming and talking about their dreams for their group.

As a BOS, we need to know how to help with Big Dreams. David encouraged us to think about Big Dreams during our time off (BOS not meeting in July) – what are our big dreams for the future of this church.

David thanked everyone for all they do for this church.

Charles Johnson asked for an update on Kacey Brewer. Valerie gave an update on Kacey and the baby - doing well.

Closing Prayer

Jason Adams

Meeting adjourned at 5:48pm

Next meeting-June 20 at 5 pm