

Alamo Heights UMC
Board of Stewards –Minutes
June 20, 2024
5:00 pm in W100

Present: David Kinder, Carol Cauley, Dan St. Romain, Doran Dennis, Brian Griffin, James Smith, Charles Johnson, Brian Nash.

Zoomed: Roger Lind

Staff Present: Jason Adams, Donna Strieb, Janet Weatherston, Valerie Slade, and Lindsay Hannah.

Secretary: Leah Jayne

Absent: Steve Waters, Johnny Boyd, Hill Ojeda, Thad Ziegler, Jack Rodgers, Pat Crump, Amy Willcox, Darrell Smith, Chris Estus, Linda Baumheckel,

Guests: Renee Kizziar, Lynn Breuer

Welcome - David Kinder opened the meeting at 5 pm

Prayer - Donna Strieb gave the opening prayer.

Approval of May Minutes-The minutes from the May meeting were approved by Carol Cauley and seconded by Brian Griffin. All approved.

SPRC-Carol gave the SPRC report informing the board that Linda Baumheckel was assigned to AHUMC at the Annual Conference as a part-time minister.

She introduced Lindsay Hannah, who has accepted the position of Finance Director. Lindsay shared information about her family and where she worked prior to accepting this position.

Carol said the onboarding for Reed McNitzky went well and that his first Sunday will be July 7, 2024.

Motion to Approve Additional Signer-Valerie brought before the board a resolution adding Lindsay Hannah as an authorized signer on the church bank and investment accounts. She reminded the board of the current people who are authorized to sign the checks. They are Jason Adams, Valerie Slade, and Darrell Smith.

Dan St. Romain moved to approve the resolution and James Smith seconded the motion.

Finance Report-Lindsay Hannah gave the Finance report. Receipts were \$2,000 better than projected due to an increase in interest income and facility use to help offset the low receipts from contributions.

Expenses were better by \$9,000. The maintenance air conditioning work was lower than expected and there were no postage costs for the month of May. The Children's Department was preparing for Vacation Bible School and the Technical Arts department had to purchase Mac Mini's to improve the quality of the sound.

We were able to catch up on apportionment payments to the conference. May ended with \$11,360 better than expected.

James asked if the summer utility bills are included in the budget. Valerie explained that they are planned for, but we are having two events in July that will raise the bills. They are the United Methodist Army and the 5-Day Academy.

Charles asked about the line item marked Asbury. Valerie explained this is the lease for the Asbury copier and she cannot wait until we are finished with the agreement.

Trustees -Brian Nash reported that Jason, Steve and Valerie met with the District Strategy Team (DST) regarding selling the Northeast corner property. They approved the sell. Now it must go to a Charge Conference on September 8, 2024.

Jason told the Board they need to be of like mind in front of the Charge Conference. If they have questions or concerns now is the time to discuss them.

Brian Griffin asked what they think the property is worth. Jason and Valerie both said \$3.3 million. The plan is to hold the bulk of the money and invest it. The earnings would be what is taken to help fund the church budget.

There would be restrictions in the sale that the church could use the parking lot of the new business during certain times.

Charles Johnson asked why we would be selling the property and having a capital campaign at the same time. Jason explained the capital campaign has been put off.

Jason explained that the church has had deferred maintenance that needs to be gotten under control to reflect the hearts and souls of the congregation. We need to be a more handicap accessible building. There is no handicap accessibility to the choir loft and no place for people in wheelchairs to sit in the Sanctuary and not have their view blocked when people stand.

Valerie said zoning must be done and is estimated to take 15 months to get a property on the market.

Valerie also explained that the church has been operating on a negative budget and we cannot maintain it.

Foundation -Roger said the Texas Methodist Foundation (TMF) came to the church on June 4 with two objectives. The first objective was to educate the Board and the second was to help process the disaffiliation. People wanted to know if the disaffiliation caused problems with the investments. The Loan Portfolio showed no increase in support loans.

Senior Pastor's Comments – Jason said the Annual Conference in Corpus Christi provided some learning opportunities. Ryan Jacobson was commissioned and that is good because we need young ministers.

The bishop said in 2016 there were 10.3 million Methodists and now there are 6 million. One-third of the churches have left the United Methodist and one-third of the pastors have also left.

They will be reducing the 7 districts to 3 districts. The bishop and cabinet will decide on the boundary lines.

The lawsuit that was brought by some of the disaffiliating churches was thrown out of court because of the confusing wording in the documents. The documents will be rewritten and submitted again. There are twenty-seven churches involved in the litigation.

BOS Chair's Comments – David expressed appreciation for Jason's recent letter to the congregation listing everything the church is doing this summer. He was especially happy to read that David McNitzky will come back for the thirtieth anniversary celebration of being on Basse Road.

He reminded the board that before the purchase and move from Broadway there were people who did not want to move. However, there were visionaries in the church who were faithful, strong and courageous who knew it was the right thing to do. The BOS must be as faithful as those visionaries were to ensure future generations are here at AHUMC. He encouraged the members of the BOS to dream big dreams for the church.

Closing Prayer -was given by Janet Weatherston

Meeting was closed at 5:55 p.m.

Next meeting will be Thursday, August 15, 2024 at 5 pm in W100.