

Alamo Heights UMC
Board of Stewards – Minutes
January 16, 2025
5:00 pm in W100

Attending: David Kinder, Dianne Dorsett, Pat Crump, Johnny Boyd, Dan St. Romain, Doran Dennis, James Smith, Brian Griffin, Carrie Lobasso, Steve Waters, Randy Holmes, Caroline Wernli, Renee Kizziar, Jason Adams, Lindsay Hannah, Valerie Slade, Darrell Smith, Janet Weatherston, Donna Strieb, Linda Baumheckel

Prayer: Opening prayer given by Darrell Smith

Welcome New Board Members: David Kinder welcomed the new members and everyone introduced themselves.

AHUMC Identity and Purpose Statements: David Kinder shared these statements with the BOS. He mentioned that these two statements are a consistent formula for growth.

Board of Steward Roles: David Kinder explained that the role of the BOS is to govern at a high level and to ensure that our mission and values are followed. The BOS ensures that the staff have the tools they need to do their jobs. The staff role is to manage the operations of the church.

Jason asked the BOS members to refer questions regarding ministries to the appropriate ministry director. That is the quickest way to find out information. Parishioners can also come to Jason or Valerie with questions, concerns, ideas or feedback. The BOS works in partnership with our ministry directors. The BOS provides feedback to pastors, staff, and leaders so that our folks are heard.

Approval of November Minutes: Dianne Dorsett made a motion to approve the minutes. Dan made the 2nd. David Kinder called for a vote and the motion was approved.

Trustees Report: Steve Waters mentioned that the working group for the NE Parking Lot sale had a touch base meeting with our brokers. The market for commercial development is tough right now. The church will patiently wait for the right buyer to come along.

Year End 2024 Financials: Valerie Slade walked the board through the format of the Financial Summary spreadsheet. She mentioned that tithes/offerings fell short of budget by -\$43K. Facility fees were \$13K more than planned and interest income was \$14.6K above plan. Total revenue for the year was -\$11K below plan. Expenses were -\$143K below plan, and Valerie praised the staff for their careful management of their budgets during the year. The church originally projected a 2024 year-end deficit of -\$164K, but with the expense savings, the deficit was only -\$32K.

Financial Trend Analysis: Johnny Boyd reported that the Finance Committee will be closely monitoring the giving trends and will be focused on growing givers.

Staff Hospitality Initiative: Valerie Slade reported that the staff are focused on raising the level of hospitality in the culture of the church. In February, a book study will commence called Unreasonable Hospitality.

Senior Pastor's Comments: Jason Adams shared his goal of enhancing stewardship activities within the Church- a top priority for 2025. The pastors and business staff will engage in a stewardship workshop led by Horizons on February 26th. Leaders from the Finance Committee will also be invited to attend.

Chairman Comments: David Kinder commented on what we measure in the church- Worship attendance, activity attendance. We measure success against our identity and purpose statements. We want people to feel like they belong. We have put disaffiliation behind us, and our focus is on growing and looking to the future. Consider how we bring people in. We are no longer a church defined by a zip code, rather, we are a central city urban church.

Closing Prayer: Linda Baumheckel prayed us out.

Next meeting: February 20, at 5 pm in W100