

Unified Church Board of the UMCM Minutes from October 14, 2024

Board Members Present: Susan Hohs, Peggy Spraggins, Dale Leppo, Kent Shellko, Karen Fike, Greg Harris, David Fike, Paul Pendleton, Rosanne Smith, Al Fellner, Brett Neff, Linda Blankenship

Board Members not present: Julie Bahr

Staff present: Cathy Miller, and Denise Pince. Staff not present: Pastor Josh, Jill Marlow

Chairpersons and guest present: Kevin Smith, Assistant Trustee; Doug Wyer, Finance Guidance Team Chair; Gina Picoult, Hospitality Task Group.

Paul Pendleton – opened with a prayer.

Paul Pendleton – Devotion – Discussed the basics of the Baldrige Performance, Leadership, Humility, Strategy, Systems of Operation, which lead to developing a strong organization.

September 8th meeting minutes – Peggy Spraggins made a motion to approve the minutes of September 8th and Kent Shellko second the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Church Finance Report – Doug Wyer – report with all the renovations being done. There is still \$30,000 left in the Capitol Funds.

Trustee: Al Fellner/ Kevin Smith – handed out their report on the status of the capital projects at the church and parsonage. Kevin Smith reported that four new plastic chairs were purchased for the Fellowship Hall to start replacing the old metal folding chairs. He added that some of the old chairs and tables have been taken to the barn for possible use by our members.

David Fike – reported that the Control Panel for the Sewage System for the church has come in and is waiting to be installed. The man installing the system is stuck in Florida from the hurricanes. David said that he is also dealing with an issue at the parsonage regarding a beehive within the siding in the house. He is afraid that the siding must be removed to get to the hive.

Christian Education – Cathy Miller – reported Movie Night went well. Four families from Lollipop joined us and the attendance was much better than in the past. Evan Goga is working with the tween group, Karen Smith shadowed him and reported he is doing an excellent job with the group. Nancy Kowar will be donating some of the shawls to Hanna Howell from Rahab Ministries and a local non-profit called Dawns Early Light, which helps foster children with needed supplies. Cathy stated that the Safe Sanctuary Policy will be revisited and all those who work with the children will need to participate.

Volunteering to run the Nordonia Hills Football Concession Stand – Cathy reported 10 volunteers worked the concession stand at Nordonia High School on Friday 10/11/24, which gave a break to the players parents for them to watch the game. She said this was a great way to be present in the community. Volunteers had a great time working.

Trunk ‘n’ Treat – Cathy said the church will hold Trunk ‘n Treat on Saturday, 10/26/24 from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm in the parking lot. She asked volunteers to have their trunks decorated and to pass out treats or if anyone would like to donate candy please contact her.

Old Business:

Website and Communications - Kent Shellko – Emilio Jarufe has taken over the Sound Booth and Tech Team very well. There are some problems, and they are being worked on.

Parking Lot – Cardinal Asphalt – Parking Lot is completed. Next year the parking lot will be resealed. A permit was pulled, there are 200 spots but were not sure how many handicapped spots were needed. Four will be removed next year and the church will need to purchase 15 to 16 placards.

Thank you to Al Fellner and Kevin Smith for all the hard work they have done.

Radical Hospitality – Dale Leppo - handed out the committee’s report – which includes plans for the various hangings on the wall, the signage requirements, Ron and Carolyn Brown have re-finished the “Old” pews, which they are in the barn drying. Kevin Smith, Gina Picoult and Dale Leppo met on Sunday to discuss hanging the large wooden plaques in the Narthex and outside of the Choir Room. They plan to mount a TV in the Narthex. Coffee Bar and Welcome Center are done, but they still need to build the false wall and get it installed. Resource Center in the Holbrook Room needs to be built, Gina Picoult is going to work with Alex Miller. The Water Fountain is not working in the Narthex. The electricity in the Narthex behind the Coffee Bar keeps blowing a fuse and needs to be looked at.

Fellowship Hall, kitchen and downstairs, - The renovation work continues in the Fellowship Hall, Kitchen and downstairs. The Fellowship Hall painting is completed, and the flooring is completely laid. Kevin said that the church was able to save a lot of money by having the members volunteer their time. Thanks to all those who have been working on the project. Kitchen is still in the works and there is no time frame yet as to when it will be completed.

Photo Directory – Cathy Miller and Kathy Kohrs are working on putting the photo Directory together. They have extended the date in order to give more time for the members to respond.

Enhanced Revenue Task Force - Peggy Spraggins, distributed her report to the Board. She stated that the members of the Task Force include Kurt Laubinger, Greg Svoboda, Patty Ebner and Cathy Miller. Peggy Spraggins suggested that UMC of Macedonia should have two or three committees to pick out several ways that could bring in addition revenue (not member’s contributions) to support the church or its missions.

Scatter Garden – Debbie Rudder was not present and will report back to the board at its next meeting.

New Business:

Clergy Housing Exclusion Resolutions: Pastor Josh Elliott asked the UCB to approve the required Clergy Housing Exclusion Resolution stating that he would contribute \$15,000 of his cash salary to be a Clergy Housing Exclusion and excluded from reportable compensation to the Internal Revenue Service. This is a required form for all clergy and has no cost to UCM of Macedonia.

Donn and Carol Bernath Bequest: Total of three I bond valued as of 10/24 is \$31,134. A cash out bond and deposit in Vanguard Money Account or Record gift in Bequest Fund. Financial Guidance Team Recommendation to apply to the mortgage in March 2025 which when a no penalty payment period begins. Benefits based on a new 15-year estimated life of loan savings \$45,700. Reduces monthly payments by \$250 = \$3,000 annually for the General Fund, which ensures more money is available for the Beard Scholarship and Apportionment obligations. The Finance Guidance Team recommends that unless a capital need arises, we should contribute the Donn and Carol Bernath bequest to reduce the mortgage principal. It is recommended that this happens in March, 2025, to avoid any pre-payment penalty. Peggy Spraggins made the motion to accept the FGT recommendation, and David Fike second the motion. There was additional discussion by Al Fellner. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

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Dedicated Computer for Holbrook Room: Kent Shellko and Cathy Miller requested that a computer be purchased for the Holbrook Room for Sunday School and Bible Study. The computer would not to exceed \$500. Kent Shellko made the motion to purchase the computer and Dale Leppo second the motion, all members present voted in favor of the motion.

Planet Aid Boxes – Rosanne Smith, requested the UCB to accept putting a Planet Aid Box on the church property. Peggy Spraggins thought this was brought up a couple years ago and was not agreed upon. Peggy also said that it was the first recommendation from Jason Moore that we clean up the parking lot. Kent Shellko requested that it be revisited in six months or so.

Welcoming New Members: The Browns, The Whites, Lynne Timko and Sandy Curley. Will be welcomed as new members to our church on Sunday, November 10th. There will be a cake reception after the service.

Paul Pendleton closed the meeting with a prayer.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:56pm.

Future Meeting Dates

Meeting dates in 2024 (Second Monday at 7:00PM): Nov. 11, and Dec. 9, 2024 (Christmas Celebration)

Notes prepared by D. Pince