

**BELMONT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MINUTES
March 20, 2016**

Welcome & Introduction: Nancy Northington, Administrative Board Chair

- Call to order
- Minutes approved from January admin board meeting

Strategic Plan Update – Vision for Mission: Adam Kelchner, Pastor of Missions and Outreach

- 55 missional relationships in four areas at Belmont UMC
 - Relief
 - Capacity Building and Development
 - Justice
 - Spiritual Transformation
- Action Items for Belmont UMC members in shaping the vision for mission
 - Read *Toxic Charity*
 - Participate in a team visit
 - Review and share Mission Guiding Principle draft with ministry teams/committees and pass revisions to adam@belmontumc.org and johnl.kennedy@comcast.net
 - "As a ministry partner, Belmont UMC commits to these values in all aspects of missional ministry as we grow in love of God and neighbor:
 1. Celebration of Gifts. Everyone can participate and contribute to the ministry vision. Every person and gift has value.
 2. Contextual Leadership. We prioritize the opportunities, challenges, and ideas of local/contextual leaders over our own.
 3. Sustainable Vision. We will cultivate vision among local leaders, ministry partners, and participants with proactive communication. No one person owns the vision for ministry.
 4. Capacity Development. We will not do for others what they can do for themselves. We will listen for ways to grow the capacity of individuals and organizations.
 5. Long Term Design and Relationship. We will ask questions, listen for creative ideas, evaluate fruit, and do no harm."

Strategic Plan Revisited: Bill Cooper, Lay Leader

- Four areas of focus in Strategic Plan
 - Hospitality
 - Diversity
 - Nurturing
 - Mission
- Revisiting Visions, Strategies and Tactics
 - What have we done that excites you in each of our priority areas?
 - What should we pursue over the next 2-3 years as a passion?
 - NOT a focus on what we have or haven't done that was in the original plan
- Full report available at the end of these minutes

Upcoming meeting dates: May 22, July 17, September 18 and November Charge Conference TBD date and location

Summary of Strategic Plan breakout sessions

Hospitality

What we have done well:

- continue "connecting" people with issues
- continue "inviting" method
- create "connecting new persons with older members" and "connecting persons with specific interests"
- continue "connecting" sponsoring persons with new members for 6-9 months
- appreciated "Welcoming Statement" printed in weekly newsletter & welcome by the pastors each Sunday
- appreciated new Sunday School class
- appreciated our opening the Community Center to other groups within the community
- appreciated use of laity for reading Holy Scriptures each Sunday during worship
- re-institute "Neighborhood Groups" as we did several years ago
- embrace welcoming all persons to Belmont - All Means All!
- proud of our participation in "Room In The Inn" program & witness - Keep it going.
- appreciate new "Welcome Center" in foyer (however, it needs to be staffed with real persons weekly)
- We're good at welcoming people to Belmont UMC, but we need follow-up for several weeks.
- Engaging - Ask new members (and regular visitors) their passions, interests & gifts - try to "match" them with members who have similar interests (do this as quickly as possible)
- continue mission events (both locally & world-wide), retreats - make available to all age levels, not just adults or youth
- continue to celebrate our diversity in all we do - music, liturgy, persons from different countries, cultures, etc.

What we should consider focusing on:

- strengthen neighborhood groups & smaller study groups within membership
- intentional WEB LINKS to various ministries of BUMC
- create "culture" of welcoming even before people enter the doors
- from time to time have members (& visitors) share their personal stories about BUMC and what it means to them - and why they choose to come to this church
- create an "inviting" welcome on the church WEB SITE
- paint the front doors "RED" - people think our church is a government building
- create a distinctive church sign on the front lawn - welcoming and inviting - clearly stating we are a church
- Outreach - Pet Walk - common ground, fellowship with visitors and new members; discover what they want from their membership at BUMC and "connect" them as soon as possible with on-going ministries and members
- reinstate ANDREW & STEPHEN MINISTRY PROGRAMS - these programs gave the laity real opportunities to be "in ministry" with our members (stronger than when a "church professional" does it)
- look carefully at "scheduling" (time) of events - ie: children's choir schedule earlier and Mid-Week at Belmont meal later (many can't come because of work schedules, but could come later and would enjoy it)
- install television monitors throughout the buildings that would list on-going programs, new programs and schedules, etc. (these could be changed/added-to in a few minutes and we only have a limited # of bulletin boards throughout the building)

- include a "Leadership Roster" (with names, addresses, phone #'s, e-mail addresses) of church leadership, both clergy (church staff) and laity leadership
- WEB SITE "connections" with groups listed in "Welcoming Statement" - connecting people both within our church membership and in the community of Nashville
- Sponsoring a table/booth at all events in our local community such as: Belmont/Hillsboro Neighborhood Events, weekly events at Belmont & Vanderbilt Universities, Religious & Secular Festivals throughout the year (ie: Tomato Festival in East Nashville, etc.)
- create quarterly (or seasonal) "Hospitality Dinners" for visitors, new members & older members

Mission

What we should consider focusing on:

- Education or equipping Belmonsters on how to respond to homeless persons they encounter in everyday settings (most traction)
- church (worship) without walls, communion after 10:30 worship and then performing services in the community (second) and
- getting back into Habitat for Humanity

Diversity

What have we done well

- Explicit attention to inclusion
 - Welcoming statement from pulpit and other print materials (multiple comments noted this)
 - General conference petitions
 - Diversity among our interns
- Inclusive worship
 - Multigenerational worship
 - Increased visibility of younger children
 - Multilingual worship
 - Multiracial/multiethnic worship
- Connections to diverse groups
 - Belmont University Wesley Fellowship
 - Multicultural fellowship, including assistance with acculturation
 - Edgehill Partnership
 - ESL ministry
 - Golden Triangle Fellowship (leadership development and focus on needs of members)
 - Broader offerings at Belmont Midweek

What we should consider focusing on in the next 3-5 years in this area

- Continue explicit efforts of being inclusive and telling our story
 - Continue diverse and inclusive worship experiences
 - Continue to share the welcoming statement
 - Explore ways to have pastoral staff and lay leadership reflect the populations we serve
- Aggressively foster diversity and offer opportunities to plug people from diverse groups in
 - Foster work on inclusion of persons with disabilities and others who are "different"
 - Strengthen relationships with Wesley Fellowships at Belmont University and Vanderbilt
 - Foster participation of the "poor" or "invisible" who are in our midst
 - Build awareness of groups in the church not yet in the congregation

- 12 step participants
 - Weekday School families
- Continue to focus on connections with LGBT community
- Events to connect GTF members
- Work with persons in transition (i.e. persons from other cultures newly arrived to US)
- Congregation wide gifts assessment and connect these gifts with needs
 - Help people understand their gifts and explicitly connect people with opportunities
 - Better understanding/coordination of service opportunities
 - Tap new retirees
 - Specific ways for college students to engage
 - Create detailed volunteer listing
 - Intergenerational offerings (intergenerational mission trips, engage multiple generations in ministry offerings)
- Focus on Creation care
 - Bottled water
 - Solar panels
 - Weekly creation care tip in newsletter, bulletin

Nurturing

What we have done well:

- Parent and child music group
- Strong participation in small groups
- Parenting class for young adults who recently divorced
- This I know study (healing)
- Sunday school (laity led)
- Lay participation in worship (various roles including ushers)
- New interest type groups on Wednesday (example Tai Chi)
- New pastoral position focused on congregational care
- Yoga
- Midweek community dinner and groups
- Faith partners
- Grief service and care of grieving persons
- Covenant Bible study
- Monthly book group
- Belmont UMC helps students from surrounding universities develop their spiritual journey and ministries through internships
- Dementia caregivers group

What we should consider focusing on:

- Vibrant children's ministries
 - Continue to encourage children in children's choirs who do not attend our church
 - Equipping additional volunteers to be Sunday School leaders and teachers
- Laity leadership
 - Passionate about identifying lay leadership and having a laity equipping ministry
- Activities for students/young adults and spiritual journey

- How God calls us to become a vibrant community for college students and young adults
- Helping new members find their place in the church
- Setting up a system for identifying spiritual gifts
- Small groups – the more the better
 - Continue to nurture/equip small groups as relationships develop
 - Creating nurturing/affinity/covenant/accountability groups
 - Small group opportunities for those active in music ministry
- Prayer ministries