

Belmont UMC
Administrative Board Minutes
May 6, 2018

Welcome — Rick Keuler, Administrative Board Chair

Spiritual Centering and Prayer — Youth Members

Youth Choir Tour — Bill Cooper, Lay Leader

- Youth Choir going on tour to Toronto, Jun. 2-8. Board members were asked to be partners in prayer and were given “artifacts and icons” (corn kernels, wet wipe, tissue, maple cookies) to help them remember and pray for the youth and leaders.
- Homecoming Concert will be June 8 at 5:00 pm.

Approval of March Minutes — Rick Keuler

- Minutes approved.

Pastor’s Report — Paul Purdue, Senior Pastor

Golden Triangle Fellowship Task Force:

- Jim Bradford agreed to lead this committee and is working on a process.
- Jefferson, Sandy S. and Paul have been meeting monthly for conversation and planning.
- There are 35 ordained persons at Belmont, and 10 were asked if they would be willing to preach for the GTF congregation once a month. This will help build links between us. Staff will rotate leadership.
- Some of the GTF young people want to explore a call to ministry.
- Concern about finding transportation to get kids here for youth group on Wednesday nights, which entails leaving around 3:30 pm to get back by 5 pm. Jin has been doing this, and we will need to figure out how to do this when he leaves.
- Different generations within the congregation have different language skills: Children under 6th grade don’t speak Karen or Thai. High School age: can understand Karen/Thai, but not read it. Adults under 40, communicate in Karen, but don’t write in Karin.

Pentecost Sunday (May 27): Service will include GTF and members from Ebenezer with leadership from Sandy and Rev. Miriam Cortez from Ebenezer. There will not be a sermon, but the service will include Communion, recitation of creeds, reading of Scripture, and singing from all of the groups.

Children’s Ministry Taskforce: Sarah McWhirt-Toler and Chris Cropsey will be leading this taskforce.

Summer Intergenerational Sunday School (June/July): The theme of the class will be “Where in the world is John Wesley?” Flat Wesley will visit Peru and England. Members will be invited to take a Flat Wesley with them on their summer travels and share a picture with the congregation.

Other items:

- We are working on updating our database and have identified 500 prospects who haven't attended in the last 18 months. We will begin contacting them and inviting them to join us.
- We are also looking at worship planning and moving to some new tools to help with this.

Ministry Moment — Darren Wright, Pastor to Young People**Youth:**

- Darren recognized the graduating senior class, which includes 16 active youth (19 total). Asked for board member's prayers for how our youth ministry will be changed by their absence.
- Summer plans include the choir tour to Toronto and two local mission projects (with refugees and older adults).
- Theme for next year will be "More is possible." This will be an entrepreneurial model of youth ministry. Who are the young change makers in our city and country? The youth will be invited to submit proposals for things they want to do and work on.

Children:

- Excited about the intergenerational Sunday School for the summer
- Received a grant from the Trust Fund to expand Godly Play (Montessori-based children's curriculum) up to 2nd grade. Grades 3-5th will continue with Deep Blue.
- Hope to have all teachers lined up by the end of May.
- In August, we will focus on updating our Safe Sanctuary policies. Beginning in the Fall, we will be more intentional about our check in/out procedures and be faithful to safety policies. If you see children wondering around without adult, this is your opportunity to accompany them. We will be creating an online module/testing for Safe Sanctuary training, and all teachers will receive this training.

Report from the Columbarium Research Committee — Charlie Warfield

- A committee was appointed by Nancy Northington, former chair of the Administrative Board, to study the interest level, feasibility and costs of creating a columbarium at Belmont. Committee members include: Dick Bowers, James Bagwell, Phil Duke, Gary Hawkins, Mary Kaye Jordan, Arnell Willis and Charlie Warfield.
- Met with churches in the area that have a columbarium to gather information.
- Conducted a survey of the congregation and received 175 responses.
 - 72.8% were in favor
 - 56.19% were "likely" or "very likely" to use it
 - 48.29% were will to pay \$2000* per niche
 - Estimate that approximately 84 people would likely use based on this information

*\$2000 is a possible price, which would be determined by whether the columbarium is located inside or outside the church. This is within the range of what the other churches have done.

Next steps: Establish locations and obtain pricing (cheaper inside than out) and hold several listening sessions/discussions.

Board approved the request to proceed with obtaining prices and listening sessions.

Church Priorities — Rick Keuler

- Moving forward on the priorities identified.
- Highlighting this Sunday: Beginning to look at possibilities for parking. Request for anyone interested in working on this issue to let Rick know.

Report from the GTF working committee — Rick Keuler

- The chair of the committee, Jim Bradford, is in Europe, so Rick gave the board updates.
- Committee members: Jim Bradford, chair; Henrietta Hagler, SPRC representative; Gayle Morin, At Large; Nelda Schreiber, At Large; Virginia Kessen, Children's Ministry; Bette Shulman, Youth Ministry; Louis Jordan, Finance; Jefferson Furtado and Paul Purdue, staff; all committee members of GTF Ministries, including Alexcia Dee, translator
- Jim has been having conversations with committee members to help determine needs for the Golden Triangle Fellowship. He has also met with Paul, Bishop McAllily, and Lynn Taylor, as well as other congregations.
- The committee is reviewing resources that we've allocated in the past and the Ministry Architects plan.
- Will begin meeting with the GTF community (and youth) to find out what is important to them and why they have ceased certain activities.
- Will also meet with Belmont members who have worked with the community.

Report from the Children's Committee — Sarah McWhirt-Toler, co-chair

- Committee members have been finalized and will meet soon.
- Will be reviewing the Ministry Architect recommendations and asking these two questions:
 - What are the concerns about the future of the children's ministry?
 - What are the goals for the future of the children's ministry?
- Email comments and questions to Sarah at: sarah.e.musgrave@gmail.com

Will be looking at visioning and mission and asking how we can staff them. Other specific areas the committee will look at:

- **Brighter Days:** How do we bridge relationships with children who aren't here, but we have relationships with through BD.
- Relationship with Weekday School
- What is the spark that gets kids excited about being here? What can engage the kids?
- **Children in worship:** Goal to continue and increase the presence of children in worship.
- **Volunteer retention:** Have looked at children's ministry and children's music ministry and the differences between volunteer retention.
- **Recruiting shepherds:** We have the most difficulty recruiting shepherds, which is a crucial role. We hope the relationship between the shepherds and children extend beyond the Sunday School hour.
- **Parent education:** Need to educate parents about what we do in Sunday School to encourage regular attendance and inform them about what the children are studying so they can reinforce this.
- **Church attendance trends:** National average is 1.4 Sundays per month. What does this reality mean for how we do Sunday School and how we do children's ministry? Do we need to do things differently in light of this?

Benediction — Jefferson Furtado, Pastor of Discipleship