

**Belmont UMC**  
**Administrative Board Minutes**  
**November 4, 2018**

Welcome – Rick Keuler, Administrative Board Chair

Spiritual Centering and Prayer – Jefferson Furtado, Pastor of Discipleship

Approval of August 26 Administrative Board Minutes — Rick Keuler

- Approved.

Pastor's Report — Paul Purdue, Senior Pastor

- Children's Worship Sunday and All Saints were beautiful services
- Be in prayer for the Way Forward process, for the delegates and conference listening sessions.
  - Over the next few weeks, we will gather on Wednesdays at to:
    - Think about the values the Commission put together and how we treat one another.
    - Discuss how to be the church in the context of something we can't control. We always live in-between things. Know that this will have an effect on the life of this church. Proud to be here — humbled but also afraid — all of which are biblical. What we do matters, and we have enormous opportunity to reach out and be a place of welcoming.
- Stewardship: Will hear personal stories from various members about what the Belmont community has meant to members. Will also be holding a series of small neighborhood meetings to discuss the Way Forward Commission, Golden Triangle and Children's Ministry committee reports, discuss the budget for 2019, and any other items people want to talk about.
- Visiting and welcoming: starting to focus on this and think about how you can make people welcome here.
- Personal: We have finished packing items for storage. Living with Keith and Karen Roberts for a little while in their apartment. Hope to buy a home soon.

Finance Report — John Pearce, Chair of the Finance Committee

- Will begin creating quarterly reports, which will be on website.

**Funds:**

- *Trust fund*: Took in \$100.8 K (\$91K earnings + \$9K in gifts), paid out \$101.7K. Earned 3% thru end of Sept. Balance is \$3 million.
- *Capital fund*: December 7, 2017 refinanced with Wilson Bank and Trust.
  - Balance is \$2,545,136 20-year amortization (plan to pay in 15 years)
  - 5 year, fixed rated of 3.95%.
- *Operating fund*:
  - We had great June, but terrible July-Aug in terms of collecting pledges and loose offerings. September is improving.
    - INCOME
      - Pledges receipts \$974,272 YTD behind versus budget (\$32,112)
      - Loose offering \$69,491 YTD behind versus budget (\$28,009)
      - Pledge & Loose YTD \$2,522 ahead of 2017 YTD
    - EXPENSES
      - Staff under budget (\$6,847)

- Properties under budget (\$6,469)
- Ministry Council under budget (\$9,505)
- Apportionments under budget (\$30,639)
  - Paid \$180,000 of \$280,852 Budget (vs. \$112,000 in 2017)
- Christmas miracle offering: Goal is to raise \$20K for Give Ye Them to Eat
- *Weekday School*: Through Sept, they have a net of \$36K.
- *Non-budget*: Includes items such as memorials, benevolence fund, operating surplus, funds in various non-budget ministry accounts, etc.
- *Rental Property*: Year-to-date net is \$1177. As of 9/30, the balance is \$28K (saving this for the roof)
- *Operating campaign*: Have received some new pledges (\$13K). There are still quite a few outstanding responses.

#### **Finance policy updates:**

- Thanks for Nancy's work on these; John and Susan helped edit. These will be a living document that will continue to be updated.
- Currently has 24 sections including such things as: how to handle cash disbursement, how to handle gifts, how to handle reserves, monthly accounting, long-term financial priorities
- Policy distributed for review and will be voted on at the December Administrative Board meeting.

#### **Areas of concern:**

- Change from Gifts that Change the World to missional emphasis campaigns by Ministry Council
- Loose offering and pledge collection
- Auditable general ledger
- Weekday School integration
- Deferred maintenance needs funding and Trust Fund priorities
- New and effective communication of financial information

#### **Report from the Children's Committee – Chris Cropsey, Co-chair of the Committee**

##### **Overview:**

- Started by looking at what is working well (children's music ministry, prayer friends),
- Identified needs.
  - Immediate (6 months to 1 year)
  - 1-3 years
  - 3-5 years
- Also looked at what support is needed from various constituents of the church — parents, congregation, staff.

##### **Mission statement:**

Created a new mission statement to highlight the importance of the commitment of the entire church to nurturing the faith development of our children.

***The Belmont UMC children's ministry is a community learning to live like Jesus and sharing God's love with everyone. Our congregation seeks to uphold our baptismal vows as we support children (ages birth through 6<sup>th</sup> grade) on their lifelong faith journey in service with others.***

This statement calls us to remember the vow we make to each child when they are baptized. We want Children's Ministry to be vital to the ministry of the church. Needs to be something that more than just parents are involved. Need to find ways to involve other members of the church.

## Needs:

- Biggest need: Full-time staff member dedicated to children's ministry. Believe that this is necessary for us to achieve our long-term goals, though realize this is a difficult reality in the present.
- Getting volunteers has been difficult because we don't have enough support and resources for them.
- How do we bring new families into the church?

## Weekday School and Golden Triangle Fellowship:

WDS is a ministry of the church and we need to improve how we interact with them. There is currently some tension related to facilities sharing and difference in how the WDS sees itself vs. how Belmont views this as an extension ministry. Need to define relationship and make some recommendations about how to improve (non-financial)

## GTF

GTF children are a regular part of children's ministry events and Sunday School attendance. Want to better define relationship with them and explore how to involve those children and get support from GTF parents.

**Action item: Board accepted the Children's Ministry Mission statement.**

## Report from the GTF working committee — Jim Bradford, Chair of the Committee

- Overview of Report from Committee
  - Committee was comprised of 50% BUMC & 50% GTF members.
  - Four charges
    1. **Assess the current status of the GTF, it's needs and current resources**
      - **Attendance** (since 2014):
        - GTF attendance grew rapidly in the first few years of the fellowship due to the large influx of refugees from Myanmar and other Southeast Asia countries. In recent years, attendance has declined.
        - There are now about 8 churches with the Nashville area with Karin members.
        - Currently have 80-90 regular GTF members. They love being part of Belmont, even though they have closer options.
        - What is the possibility for growth? We think attendance will remain consistent and likely not experience future growth.
      - **Financial support:** Expenses have averaged \$28K a year, primarily for a part-time pastor, interpreter/children's director, and childcare. Also includes Ministry Council budgeting that supports GTF programs, transportation, scholarships, Midweek dinner subsidies, and other expenses.
      - The GTF collects an offering each Sunday that goes to the operating fund. Since 2014, this offering has averaged approximately \$2,500 each year. Thus, the net expenses to support the GTF has averaged \$25,900 over the past five years.
      - In addition to these direct expenses, Belmont's staff devotes some portion of their time to ministering to the GTF. The most significant is the Pastor to Young People who estimates that 10% of his time is devoted to the GTF.
      - Notably, GTF members also collect money each week for a benevolence fund to assist fellow GTF members. Approximately \$4,000 is collected and distributed from this fund each year. Recommend that this money be handled by finance committee with 3 GTF members to propose how the money will be spent.

## 2. Describe the models and best practices:

- As we studied the ministries offered by four of these congregations from across the country, we began to realize that the situation at Belmont is unique. Most frequent model is one where space is shared, but nothing more.
- Believe that we have is best practice: Both congregations continue to be involved in several common services or other activities throughout the year, while retaining their language and cultural services.
- Need to determine how to implement Safe Sanctuary program with GTF.
- GTF now meets in the Chapel, which they much prefer.

## 3. Desires and hopes:

- Strong desire to remain part of Belmont rather than forming a separate congregation.
- Appreciate the opportunity to have services in their native language, but also want to have joint services 4 or more times a year.
- Have valued — and want to continue — being able to attend all church retreat
- Appreciate being able to now worship in the chapel, subject to complying with the Fire Code rules and maintaining the Chapel in good condition

## 4. Needs

- Opportunity to conduct services in own language
- Opportunity to work with children's ministries. Believe there are current funds available to support this.
- **Staff needs that require BUMC resources:**
  - Part-time pastor (or staff) to coordinate services and needs and who can translate and transport if there is some type of emergency or need.
  - Person from Karen congregation to translate sermons and coordinate activities offered by Belmont with GTF youth and adults.
- Continued joint committee meetings to plan and coordinate future activities of the two congregations.
- Transportation and translation services for clinic visits where no service exists
- Programming assistance for their UMW Circle
- Volunteer assistance from Belmont members for Sunday School Bible study.

### **Additional business:**

Paul brought an inquiry about using Belmont facilities for a watch night service on the eve of the election that would be non-partisan. The service was initially going to be held at Edgehill, but they will be hosting Room in the Inn that night.

Some felt strongly that it needed to be non-partisan. Others expressed desire to lean into our progressive understanding of the gospel and not be afraid to take a strong stand.

No decision was made, but Paul would have further discussion with John Feldhacker about the service.

[Benediction — Paul Purdue](#)

**Next Meeting: December 16, 2018 for Annual Charge Conference**





