

**Belmont United Methodist Church Administrative  
Board and Charge Conference Meeting**  
December 16, 2018

**Welcome** – Rick Keuler, Administrative Board Chair

**Opening Prayer** - Rev. Heather Harriss, Pastor of Congregational Care

**Approval of November 4 Administrative Board Minutes** – Rick Keuler

Minutes Approved.

**Charge Conference** — Opening

**Pastor's Report** — Rev. Paul Purdue, Senior Pastor

- This has been a year of change and adjustment, particularly for our staff, whose responsibilities have shifted and adjusted with the loss of two full-time staff members. Jefferson Furtado has taken on additional responsibilities with the Golden Triangle Fellowship, deepening Belmont's connections with our Karen members. He has implemented a regular preaching rotation of non-staff ordained clergy and church leaders. He is mentoring Alexcia Sin Dee, a member of GTF, who now serves as an intern and began the candidacy process in the fall.
- In addition to congregational care, Heather Harriss has taken on additional leadership responsibilities in worship. Need greater lay participation in weekly worship services.
- Our worship has blossomed with greater diversity as Jefferson, Darren, Gayle, and Heather now all regularly contribute to liturgical planning. We need greater lay participation in the mechanics of carrying our weekly worship services.
- After his graduation from Vanderbilt Divinity School, Darren Wright became a full-time staff member. In addition to continuing to lead our youth program, he has taken on responsibility for leading our children's program as well. He has done an excellent job utilizing our children's interns, recruiting volunteers and working with our long-term children's ministry planning committee.
- Gayle Sullivan and Amy Cooper lead such a vibrant, spiritual, and vital music ministry.

Long-term planning:

- Exec committee and committee chairs will meet in new year to have planning conversations with Tom Laney about how to address the upcoming Special General Conference and the reports that will be considered there. In January, we'll offer a 5-week Sunday evening gathering to prayerfully consider the way forward and how we at Belmont will respond to what is decided by the General Conference.
- We created a strategic parking committee. We know that our how lack of parking affects our attendance and participation, and we will likely need to make some difficult choices and develop a new culture of parking.
- We created committees to help us with long-term planning for GTF and children's ministry.
- Strengthen and clarify our connections with the Belmont Weekday School.

One of our deep challenges at Belmont is helping new people connect with and navigate these many streams. We need to work on our intra-church communication and cross-group connections so that more people can find their way into all the wonderful ministries, opportunities and agencies that touch and are part of our church.

The needs of our 108-year-old building continue to need attention, and we need to think strategically about how we will invest in maintaining and upgrading our facilities. Grateful for the leadership of the Trustees and Properties committees in helping address crisis management, fire suppression and other needs.

Paul expressed gratitude for the stewardship and finance teams and all of their hard work. He is also grateful for the work of the executive leadership team, our church staff and volunteers.

It is an honor to serve at Belmont and have never felt more deeply called to serve a place.

### **Young People Report (Children / Youth) — Darren Wright, Pastor of Young People**

#### Youth ministry

- Youth ministry continues to grow. Our youth are inviting their friends and the participation of youth who were not attending regularly has increased because they value the community at Belmont.
- Have begun to be more intentional about being in relationship with GTF youth.
- Youth choir under the guidance of Gayle Sullivan and Bill Cooper continues to be a strong part of our youth ministry.

#### Children's Ministry

- Children's ministry team, with leadership from Sarah McWhirt-Toler, has updated the Safe Sanctuary policy and check in/out process for our children's ministry programs.
- We added a second Godly Play classroom so that all of our children, in 2nd grade and below are now experiencing Godly Play (a Montessori based curriculum that centers children as participants in the story of God), and grades 3-6 transitioned to a new digital curriculum from Sparkhouse that allows more flexibility for our partners in ministry who teach Sunday school to best meet the needs of our young people.
- A team, chaired by Sarah McWhirt-Toler and Chris Cropsey, created a mission statement for Belmont's children ministry and identified areas of celebration and concern as we continue to hope and dream about where God is calling our children's ministry.

### **Adult Report — Jefferson Furtado, Pastor of Discipleship**

- The missional nature of our church is visible in our commitment to care for children in the Edgehill community, those who struggle with homelessness, immigrants in need of legal aid, our neighbors in Mexico and Malawi, and the many partnerships with organizations that provide hope and relief for God's beloved children in Nashville and beyond.
- How do we listen to one another? Ponder how God is leading us to move forward. Looking for ways and opportunities to be in community together.

- How we welcome people into our church community. New committee led by Jim and Starr Strickland has helped us streamline our process of welcoming.
- GTF: They have challenged us to worship together 2-4 times a year. We have moved from relief to empowerment, and are helping them grow into what God wants them to be.

**Older Adults Report** — Heather Harris, Pastor of Congregational Care and Senior Adults

- Our ministry of congregational care continues to grow as we care and nurture one another in Christian love. I'm thankful for the hard work of outgoing chair, Sharon Helton and pleased to welcome Carolyn Primm as our new chair.
- Our Hospital Visitation Team led by Bart Perkey continues to provide a vital ministry.
- Our Homebound Ministry is coordinated by Carolyn Primm, Arnell Willis and Judy Stubbs. Members of this team extend the love and compassion of our congregation to our members who are no longer able to attend.
- I'm extremely thankful to Arnell Willis and her coordination of our Funeral guild. She assures that hospitality and care is present when we are experiencing the sorrow of grief and loss.
- Ministry with Senior Adults—We are thrilled to have three leaders, Pat Ziegler, Bobbi Peek and Jim Robinson. We are in an exciting time of transition and we are looking forward to begin planning for the new year.
- We continue to provide opportunities to learn about, and deepen, our spirituality, including book studies, a day of retreat to St. Meinrad's Abbey and our Women's Centering Prayer group.

**Golden Triangle Fellowship Report** — Sandy Sakarapanee, Pastor of GTF

- We work with families to help them get settled in a new country and new culture. We share God's love by helping new families regain self-sufficiency and ensure they have food, clothing and shelter. Most importantly, we help them with their spiritual need by sharing God's word, leading worship and having communion together.
- Our youth group continues joining the Belmont youth program every Wednesday night, which allows them more exposure to American culture and the English language.
- I am focused on training our church members to serve in our congregation and be a part of our worship team. Four members are now serving in Children ministry.

**Membership Reports** — Paul Purdue

- Reading of the list of new members and members we have not heard from
- Reading of the list of people that we haven't heard from since 2015
- List of those who, on 3rd reading will be removed from membership rolls.

**Financial Report** — John Pearce, Chair of the Finance Committee

- We finished 2018 strong and paid 100% of our apportionments.
- 2019 Pledges

- Pledge Goal: \$1.3M
- Received as of 12/10: \$1.1M
- 19 New pledges: \$55K
- 10 lost: \$33K
- Increases: \$63K
- Decreases: \$10K
- Apportionment history: In the past 14 years, we have paid 97.8% of our apportionments.
- Christmas Miracle Offering: As of 12/14, we have only collected \$2000 dollars thus far. We want to raise \$20K and have a record of meeting and exceeding these goals.

**Compensation / Parsonage allowances** — John Lessene, Chair of Staff Parish Relations Committee

- Clergy Compensation approval
  - 2018 Total: \$329,207
  - 2019 total: \$292,420
  - In past, we gave details of each salary broken out. Decided this is perhaps a better way of doing this. Details are available for those interested.
- 2 positions eliminated and took effect in middle of year and made Darren full time. No increase for clergy or admin staff in 2018.
- In 2019, we'll have the full effect of those eliminated positions. This includes average of 5.3% increase for clergy. Important and deserved and need to keep this competitive with other salaries in conference.
- Skyrocketing living expenses. Hard for folks to live in the city where they minister.

**Renewal of Lay Speaker and Candidates for Ministry** — Scott Aleridge, District Superintendent

- Linda Furtado
- Alexcia Sein Dee
- Caroline Archer

Candidates approved.

- June Batsel, Lay Servant:

Renewal approved.

**Local Church Leadership / Nominations** — William Cooper, Lay Leader

- List of committee members are a living document for committee chairs. Let Connie know if members are correct. Nomination committee helps to identify chairs, but the members are responsibility of chairs to update.
- A pastor can fill a position if needed between admin board meetings.

Nominations APPROVED.

**Closing remarks** — Scott Aleridge, District Superintendent

- Grateful for John Pearce, who has given great leadership to Belmont and to the conference
- Introduced our District Lay Leader, Byron Kennedy. He missed our 2017 charge conference, glad came to this one. Grandmother member of this church, father baptized here, grandfather did some work on this church.

**Close the Charge Conference and additional business**

**Vote on Financial Controls proposed by Finance Committee** — Rick Keuler

- Policies APPROVED.

**Trust Fund Report** — Kathy Nevill

- Trust document requires a report every Dec
- This year hasn't been as good a year as last year, given recent Stock Market performance.
- Trust fund pays out approximately \$150K a year, which includes grants and payment on community center loan debt.
- Grant award process moved to later in year. We don't want to fund any budgetary items, even though we did some of that last year by necessity. Main purpose of grants is to seed new things

**Benediction** — Paul Purdue