

BELMONT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MINUTES
September 11, 2016

Welcome & Introduction: Nancy Northington, Administrative Board Chair

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

2017 Operating Fund Campaign: John Davis, Campaign Chair

- Pledge cards handed out
- Goal of \$1,310,000 (5% increase over last year)
- Looking to build on last year's campaign success
- Admin Board started the campaign off strong, which helped build momentum
- Striving for 100% participation, regardless of amount
- Can e-mail your pledge to pledge@belmontumc.org or return the card in the mail

Inviting Ministries Update: Louis Jordan, Chair

- Welcome center ready to be up and running
- Still looking for volunteers for greeting, welcome centers, and "mentors" for new members

Sharing and Celebration: Nancy Northington, Administrative Board Chair

- Opportunity to share in response to:
 - How has your ministry, committee or personal action impacted our church in the areas of hospitality, mission, diversity and nurturing?

Task Force Report: Bill Cooper, Lay Leader

- Review of current context:
 - Belmont UMC
 - Charge to the task force
 - Welcome Statement adopted in 2013
 - Belmont's continued journey towards true inclusiveness
 - Significant growth in 2015 in ministry and finances
 - Continuing ministries of love, care and hospitality
 - United Methodist – Denominational Level
 - General Conference 2016
 - Delegates asked Bishops to provide leadership
 - Council of Bishops: "Offering for a Way Forward"
 - Possible special General Conference in 2018
 - 20 to 25 members
 - Members have not been announced
 - First meeting anticipated for October
 - Called General Conference in 2018-process begun by Executive Committee
- What the Task Force Did
 - Monitored ongoing activity by Council of Bishops

- Extensive research
- Prayer and discernment
- Major Concerns
 - Current Book of Discipline policies that prohibit full inclusion of LGBTQ persons remain in effect
 - How do we extend Christ's love now while the denomination discerns a path forward?
- Ministry Opportunities
 - Belmont clergy participating in a same-sex wedding ceremony
 - Same-sex marriage ceremonies of our members at Belmont
 - Belmont members who are LGBTQ and have the gifts for ordained ministry being recommended and supported by Belmont
 - Include Belmont as one of Nashville's welcoming United Methodist churches through the Reconciling Ministry Network website (not prohibited by UMC, but not yet approved by BUMC)
- Extensive list of options for Belmont UMC including benefits and risks
- What's Next?
 - Period of discernment
 - "Where do we hear God's call?"
 - Prayer
 - Study & Reflection
 - Conversation with room for expressions of tension and frustration
 - Pastoral care
 - Allow God to speak in new & fresh ways
 - Would include designated timeline
- What is Asked of the Administrative Board
 - Accept the report of the task force and its recommendations including working to support change within the denomination
 - Charge a group to facilitate a short season of prayer, discernment and listening
 - As leaders, we are asking you to help us continue to find a way forward together
- Time for group reflection and sharing
- Proposal by the task force unanimously accepted by the administrative board

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

October 2 charge conference at Belmont UMC

- 11:30 am in Parker Hall