

**Belmont United Methodist Church**  
**Administrative Board Meeting and Charge Conference**  
**February 5, 2023, 12 noon (live and by Zoom)**

- I. Welcome by Jeff
- II. Opening Prayer by Heather before lunch.
- III. December 18, 2022 Minutes were approved
- IV. Finance Report- Mark gave this report on the yearend giving statements. He utilized the slides that are attached. Mark discussed the yearend statement along with the following.
  - A. 6 different funds with inflow and outflow
    - a. Offering
    - b. WDS
      - i. Covid related grant monies received was given back to parents in the form of tuition discounts about over 100K.
      - ii. There was a net gain of 82K that came from grants. However, we do not expect more grants this year
        1. WDS will be adding a new classroom that was remodeled and will reopened soon.
    - c. Memorial/Gifts
      - i. UMC causes
      - ii. Charitable giving
      - iii. Christmas Miracle Giving: we exceeded our 30K goal- which was closer to 32.4K
      - iv. Benevolence fund, a little over 5K in that fund
        1. We spend most of that for community care fellowship, and that is where we send people who come in from the street to provide their immediate or long-term needs.
    - d. Rental Property
      - i. We had to pay for a new roof, we are only responsible for exterior of building. We still owe about 37K on that.
    - e. Capital Fund
      - i. A little over 5K in giving and we are always encouraging more giving
      - ii. Debt service paid on community center
      - iii. Reduced our principal loan, we are making progress on that loan
        1. In 2017 was refinanced and locked in a 5-year rate. Was set to expire in Dec 2022. We saw interest rates were rising so we refinanced early in April and got a 4.1 rate fixed until December 2027. WE still owe 1.8 million on community center. We are putting extra down each month to pay down sooner.

- f. Trust Fund
  - i. Loss . . . September was rough
  - ii. Grants for church projects
    - 1. Upgrading Livestream, project in progress.
    - 2. Pre pandemic awarded to Security cameras and access control on our doors. Speakers for emergency/like intercom in case of emergency for evacuations. Was more expensive post pandemic.
  
- B. Where does our money come from? (Slides attached)
  - a. Other income?
    - i. Credit care points
    - ii. Amazon Smile
    - iii. WDS
    - iv. Cell phone tower
  
- C. We pay 100% of apportionments we were 19K underbudget with a few other things Mark mentioned
  - a. Over the past 14 years we have paid at least 98%. As of 2017 we have hit the mark of 100% apportionments every year since then. We should all be proud of that.
  
- D. Looking ahead for 2023
  - a. 254 pledges have come in already.
  - b. There are some decreases in pledges
  - c. Excited about 23 new pledges this year
  - d. 132 increases in pledges, about ½ of our pledgers increase every year!
  - e. 79 pledgers pledge the same amount
  - f. 20 lost pledges, from people who have moved or passed away.
  - g. In looking at patterns we have had an increase in pledges.
    - i. 2021 showed a good increase. We are still up 25K , but we are not quite back to where we were pre-Covid
  
- E. 5 concerns
  - a. Aging out of Belmont givers
  - b. US economy, unemployment and recession which relates to our Trust Fund recovery. John says it takes about 3 years to recover/rebound.
  - c. Building maintenance concerns
    - i. We have an aging building and have allotted half a million for maintenance, but it isn't really for major repairs.
    - ii. We spent 20K on a metro code to move plumbing equipment basement to the playground.
    - iii. 5K went for a new fire panel
    - iv. Gayle Sullivan's office ceiling fell through, and thus unexpected repairs are needed.
    - v. There is a whole list of more things that need to be done.
  - d. Long term revenue solutions

- i. It is time to think about and ask what ideas are out there that we haven't thought of?
    - e. Improving our culture of giving
      - i. Especially for under 45
      - ii. It is no longer a societal norm to give when joining the church
      - iii. How do we get younger ones to commit to giving.
      - iv. Perhaps we need to ask what motivates you to give.
  - F. Paul brought up the issue of the steps on the side of the church. They had been repaired but are still an issue and they're in process for figuring out a moisture issue?
- V. Nominations Report – Louis Jordan, lay leader
  - A. We have vacancies, and these are put through for approval
    - a. Gary Hawkins for nominations
    - b. John Davis for finance
    - c. Phil Hughes for trust fund
      - 1. Presented for approval, call for discussions, call for vote, motion passes
- VI. Ministry Report - Louis Jordan
  - a. More to come in worship next week in lieu of the sermon
  - b. 10 or more went to Mexico for a week
    - i. focused on
      - 1. Living sustainably: do lots of training including compostable toilets, building out of available housing materials that are efficient and insulated.
      - 2. Agricultural development
      - 3. Health Education programing: clinics for dental hygiene was an example
  - c. Louis expressed a want to continue supporting this ministry and a hope to have younger members join in the future.
  - d. This has been in existence since 1977. The mission was to take a holistic approach to identify what you have and how can it be resourced and utilized for short term and generations to come. It is an investment that we hope UM of US will support and is outreach of UM Mexico.
- VII. Strategic Stewardship Taskforce Recommendation
  - A. Item of concern/question is: What do we do to be good stewards/stewardship of this place and the things we do at Belmont within the mission of Belmont. How do we work together and what is our vision moving forward coming out of Covid.
    - i. Recommendation that came through Exec is to establish a Taskforce to gain perspective from financial predications as well as new pledgers and those that have come to us from virtual connections or just off the street; rather than forming a new committee.

1. We recognize a need for those who are already involved as leaders to help pull in future leaders for the church.
- B. Jeff asks for questions or comments about the scope of the proposal
  - a. Jeff asks for a motion to approve this Taskforce. It was moved, seconded, then had further discussion.
    - i. Question: Are you hoping for a written report after this task force?  
Jeff answered: Yes, the thought in doing it now is that that task force can come back with recommendations for nominations, for ministry council to consider for finance to look at outcomes and suggest
  - b. Motion to form the Taskforce with a focus on stewardship was passed.

#### VIII. Other Business

##### A. Catering Kitchen

- a. Barley to rise is gone and we are actively looking for what/who comes next. We expect this will be a long process
  - i. Mark and Kate have been and will continue to coordinate meals for events.
  - ii. If you know anyone, please bring those ideas to the table for discussion. There are no bad ideas as we move forward in looking for a solution.
- B. Question from Eric Patton asked if any of the interviews have outcomes
  - i. Mark shares on Friday we found out none are moving forward. One said they could not meet our needs of WNAB, one gave no reason, one didn't respond, and the other is going a different path
- C. Eric asks how clean is the kitchen? – Mark answered, “not very” and this fact is echoed by many in the room.
- D. Paul says some of our solutions for food have been great but even the attendance has been unpredictable.
- E. Mark says if we can get through the next two months that gives us breathing room for the summer before we get back up for the Fall.
- F. Paul – I think we are amenable to having Anne Hoback take reservations in the short term. That may help a caterer take on a short-term project.
- G. Jeff states we are looking for long term and short-term solutions to get through the school year and WNAB type things and then moving forward with a more permanent solution.

#### IX. Clergy & Staff Reports

##### A. Heather

- a. Saturday before and after Ash Wednesday will be spiritual retreats
- b. Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> is Ash Wednesday. Excited about how Lent is looking. Hope everyone will read book of Matthew and guides are available to all for encouragement to do that.

##### B. Emma

- a. Youth group is doing great with attendance, about 40 each week

- b. 10 coming WNAB. One youth expressed that WNAB is important, and it wouldn't be church/Belmont without WNAB.
- c. Working to improve youth floor via coffee time, updating photos and allowing youth to take ownership of that space.
  - i. Seeing youth surround their friends for Val Jackson' funeral was amazing
  - ii. Emma is working to increasing her/our presence at Belmont University
    - 1. Having coffee with students, becoming a part of the Wesley Foundation, offering a trip to London in May, we currently have 4 BU students in the choir and those girls are also part of a small group via BUMC.
  - iii. YAMS
    - 1. Brew theology got kicked off for 20 somethings, young professionals. Not so much for college students. Partnering with West End UMC. Keller Hawkins has been pulled in and she is sort of leading it right now.

C. Paul

- a. Echo what Emma said in seeing how the youth came together to support the Jackson family.
- b. Excited about what is coming up for Lent
- c. Paul went on to speak about the connectional part of Methodism in the face of the racism and other key issues of discriminations including LBGTQIA community.
- d. There is a lot of bad news in Methodism, but a lot of positives are happening as well.
- e. The Bishop is filming in our sanctuary this week. Cindy Caldwell said it is being recorded because of an ask for his message to be shared globally.
- f. We are in a hard place in Methodism and in the world, but as Christ followers we are doing amazing things.
- g.

X. Jeff takes a moment to share his gratefulness over the staff and how all these reports do tie back into the finance. On behalf of Admin Board expresses our thanks for all they do at Belmont for the ministry of the church

XI: Gayle lifts Bruce Williams upcoming surgery and long recovery.

XII: Jeff asked for any other business, and seeing none, asks for Benediction

X. Benediction: by Paul with a special prayer for Bruce Williams's upcoming surgery.