

**Belmont United Methodist Church**  
**Administrative Board Meeting and Charge Conference**  
**December 3, 2023, 12:11pm (live and by Zoom)**

- I. Welcome (12:11pm) (Jeff Sheehan)
  - II. Opening Prayer (12:13) (Heather Harriss)
  - III. August 27, 2023 Minutes\* (12:14)
    - A. Minutes were circulated
    - B. Call for corrections, seeing none, without objection they are approved.
  - IV. Finance Committee (12:15) (John Pearce)
    - A. Finance Report
      - 1. We are doing great through November and cautiously optimistic we may have a surplus.
      - 2. As of November 30<sup>th</sup>, our revenue exceeds our expenses.
      - 3. Slides
        - 1. Pledging campaign
          - 1. we still have 73 pledgers we haven't heard from.
          - 2. Goal was a 1.4 million.
    - B. Recommended 2024 Budget
      - Each discussed and asked if there were any questions about what was presented by John Pearce.
      - 1. Capital fund
      - 2. Rental property
      - 3. Wesley Foundation: we do not currently have a 2023 budget for them as the Conference is underwriting those expenses.
      - 4. Weekday School: is doing great and expanded by one classroom this year.
      - 5. Church Budget
        - 1. Includes the 4% increase in pay for staff to keep in line with inflation.
- Question: non budget transfers – they are not really part of the overall budget, and we earn interest on those. (Treasury bills, donations for various missions via Sunday Schools and Choir)
- Recommendation from the Finance Committee for Jeff Sheehan to put before the Administrative Board. Call for further discussion, seeing none. Motion to approved and passed.
- V. Staff Parish Relations Committee (12:34) (Dick Bowers)
  - A. Recommended 2024 Clergy Compensation
    - Rev. Paul Purdue shall receive a salary of \$112,928 for the year 2024.
    - Rev. Paul Purdue shall additionally receive a housing allowance of \$31,00 for the year 2024 and all future years unless otherwise modified.
    - Rev. Heather Harriss \$44,000 and housing \$35,000
    - Rev. Kate \$45,140 and \$15,500 for housing
  - B. Recommendation before the Admin Board by Jeff Sheehan
    - 1. Call for discussion.
    - 2. Seeing none, call for vote, and passes.

VI. Strategic Stewardship Taskforce (12:40) (Louis Jordan)

- A. Plan for Phase 1 and RFP Request
- B. Request put before Admin Board by Jeff Sheehan
  - 1. To approve plan for Phase 1 and then also to request \$12,500 from trust fund. Seconded, request for further discussion. Call for vote and approved.

VII. Resolution Honoring Gayle Sullivan\* (12:38)

Recognition of Gayle's last Admin Board meeting and her 34 years  
Moved, seconded, unanimously passed with standing ovation to Gayle.  
Gayle shared her thanks.

VIII. Charge Conference - Rev. Jerry Wallace, District Superintendent (12:51)

- A. 2024 Clergy Compensation recommended by Admin Board
  - 1. Unanimously affirmed this approval via "Amen".
- B. 2024 Disciplinary Leaders recommended by Nominations Committee\*
  - 1. Louis Jordan shared outgoing members names and service, and all were applauded.
  - 2. Louis Jordan highlighted a few names off the purple sheet of nominated names. One change is Finance: John Pearce will be chair of Finance. Mary Alice resigned from SPRC to co-chair Children's Ministry Team. Gretchen Napier will be taking her place on SPRC. Golden Triangle has some openings. A few other ministry council persons have been added since August.
  - 3. Called for vote, seconded, and passed.
- C. Annual conference names
- D. Candidates for Ordained ministry: Keller Hawkins. Recommended by unanimous vote to approve.
- E. Louis Jordan as Lay ministry recommended and unanimous voted and approved.

IX. Additional Lay Ministry Reports (12:59)

- A. Outreach (Steve Bryant)
  - 1. Program at BUMC is reaching goals by expanding our reach and deepening those connections as well.
  - 2. 3 big areas beyond the outreach of UMC
    - 1. International Outreach
      - a. Partnership with UMC of Malawi, continued partnership for 15+ years. To support the administration of the church there. This is an active partnership with 4 other collaborators.
      - b. The Mexico (Give the to Eat?) that focuses on sustainable living.
      - c. Christmas Miracle Offering that this year goes to Mama Lynn in Eastern Congo
    - 2. Local
      - 1. Homeless
      - 2. HERO program

3. Children in this community in underserved areas. Ebenezer UMC to develop their child development center. It is an ongoing effort.
4. Community Care Fellowship – Dare to Dream CDC

B. Ministry Council (1:05) (Kim Sheehan)

1. We have 24 dedicated leaders along with our 5 staff to plan where we are going in the next few years with intentional strategic planning.
2. To appreciate where we are now, we want to remember where we were over the past few years.
3. Thanks to our staff for finding creative ways to creative worship and participate during social challenges during the pandemic.
4. Thanks to great “thought partners” who helped dig deep into the ministry council areas and ask how we can continue to serve during remote and hybrid situations from these past few years.
5. To those who helped us remain inclusive of all persons in our ministry in the face of uncertainty. Who kept the light in these times.

X. Clergy & Staff Reports (1:09)

A. Emma Bushong, Director of Ministry with Young People

1. New groups including small groups and basketball teams.
2. New curriculum to align our work at church and parenting at home.
  1. This has given us lessons we enjoy as well as supporting the parenting role at home.
3. College ministry is growing and thriving.
  1. Our connection with Belmont University remains strong and we continue to work to find places for them to belong.
  2. Rachel Parker’s small group – 15 people attend most weeks, and it is growing.
  3. 8 students joined our congregation: 4 from other UMC and area affiliate members. 4 have joined the UMC.
  4. Belmont Wesley Foundation has given opportunities to join together and support each other.
4. Young Adult Ministry
  1. Former Belmont Youth are back and becoming active members of the church in the choir, youth group leaders, and even basketball coaches.
  2. We have times for them to meet before church and after work.
  3. Having BUMC be “home” when their own home churches may have disaffiliated.

B. Rev. Kate Fields, Pastor of Children and Discipleship (1:17)

1. Discipleship:
  1. about to launch a new pathway to go deeper into our vows to the church.
  2. Our picnic and all church retreats have been well attended and we hope to continue that momentum.
  3. Mid-week at Belmont continues.
2. Children’s Ministry
  1. Children are Beloved and they are “owning” the name God gives them as “Beloved”.
  2. Had a wonderful Fall Carnival

3. Able to offer childcare for special events and on Wednesdays again.
  4. Advent Family craft night is tonight.
- C. Rev. Heather Harriss (1:22pm)
1. Honored to work with all who give time and talent to BUMC.
  2. Encore Ministries & Faith Companions
    1. Commending those who help us stay connected and reach out to those members who are not always with us.
  3. Spiritual Retreats and Weekly Prayers continue.
- D. Keller Hawkins, provisional Deacon
1. Second year as provisional process
  2. Graduated in August and now practicing as a counselor at BUMC . Still full time at Belmont University in Service Learning.
  3. Serves BUMC in a multitude of ways: All church retreat, youth ministry, worship, etc.
- E. Rev. Paul Purdue (1:25)
1. Expressed gratitude and honor to serve with all in leadership at BUMC.
  2. Appreciation for DS and Bishop presence with us today.
- F. Bishop McAlilly
1. Thanks to working with John Pearce and Paul Purdue.
  2. When he thinks about Belmont as a model church in how it has engaged the local and global community in service to others. The music ministry is second to none. He expressed wanting us to know we have helped him grow as a Christian and as a Pastor. Expressed we are a blessing and occupy a unique place in this community. Plans to retire in September.

XI. Other Business (1:30)

Dick Bowers lifted the ESL program at BUMC and uplifting Mark & Paul for their leadership in the wake of the security breach.

XII. Jeff Sheehan shares word of thanks for the experience as Admin Board leadership as VP and President.

XIII. Benediction (Paul) (1:33)