

Ad Council Meeting August 28th, 2023

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| Pastor Jenny Savage | Pastor Paul Craig | Pastor Chuck Wilson |
| Tyleta Morgan | Margaret Todd | Nancy Harris |
| Susie Verrill | Beth Merchant | Ben Freeman |
| Suzanne Pugh | Greg Mangum | Hugh Clark |
| John Millen | Lee Goldstein | Dale Webster |
| Sam Hatcher | Greg Klein | Amy DeVore |
| Byard Bost | Amanda McGarth | Kaitlin Klotz |

- I. Welcome and Check-in-Suzanne Pugh
 - a. Who do you love and what are you doing about it?
- II. Lighthouse Congregation-Paul Craig
 - a. Lighthouse Congregations serve as a beacon for members of churches that have disaffiliated and do not want to disaffiliate.
 - i. Lighthouse Congregations may be a permanent church home or a temporary church home for people who have been impacted by the recent split of the United Methodist Church and the Global United Methodist Church.
 - b. MUMC is a potential Lighthouse Congregation.
 - i. We will remain United Methodist
 - ii. We will provide a soft, safe place for people who have been affected by disaffiliated.
 - iii. We will provide an “orientation” about ministries and groups at MUMC
 1. Pastors Jenny and Paul have been in conversation with each other as well as the Stephen Ministers on how to provide individuals with ways they can use their unique gifts to serve and glorify God in fellowship with other believers.
 - c. We are about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through meeting the requirements of becoming a Lighthouse Congregation
 - i. A pastor and a layperson have undergone the Lighthouse Congregation training.
 - ii. Now a resolution must pass the Ad Council
 1. If it passes the Ad Council, MUMC must register online as a Lighthouse Congregation
 2. The District Superintendent will confirm status as a Lighthouse Congregation
 3. The congregation must be informed of the Lighthouse Congregation status.
 4. The church would become a Lighthouse Congregation.
 - d. Questions:
 - i. Can LGBTQ+ couples be married in the church by MUMC pastors?
 1. Officially, no-Discipline does not allow for same-sex marriages within the United Methodist Church

- a. However, pastors may perform marriages if they are prepared for the consequences.
 - ii. How will the Lighthouse Designation be communicated to our community and beyond?
 - 1. If the resolution passes, we will be added to the map of Western North Carolina which is searchable by people looking for churches.
 - 2. The announcement would be made in worship bulletins and newsletters.
 - 3. Additionally, if we support the resolution, we can place signage in front of the church.
 - iii. If a church disaffiliates, does it mean that they are going to join the Global United Methodist Church?
 - 1. Not necessarily
 - iv. What is concerning about this possibility?
 - 1. We're taking steps forward, but not fully committing by not performing LGBTQ+ marriage ceremonies.
 - v. What is exciting about this possibility?
 - 1. It gives us the opportunity to live in our mission of Reach, Teach, Praise, and Serve through reaching people we have not reached in the past
 - 2. Invitation to participate rather than complete agreement on the issue.
 - vi. Would online resources be available to serve people who connect with MUMC virtually?
 - 1. Online resources that already exist and are available to online worshippers will remain available.
- e. Resolution: "Our congregation, Matthews United Methodist Church moves that we become a Lighthouse Congregation of the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church in partnership with The United Methodist Collective Movement of our District Conference. In doing so, we. Not only commit to remaining a part of The United Methodist Church but also to serving those who have lost their church homes through disaffiliation or closure. We will partner this work in the following ways:
- i. Provide a welcoming place to belong during this time of grief and transition, which might be just a season for a lifetime. This includes a safe space with caring relationships, listening hearts, and unconditional love within a congregation is confident it is remaining in the UMC.
 - ii. Offer "No pressure" ministry opportunities (if the person or group is willing). These will include worship, discipleship, and mission.
 - iii. Organize local Remaining UMC groups by proactively finding and connecting with individuals and groups displaced by disaffiliating churches.
 - iv. Connect individuals or groups with Conference and District resources to help them discern their next steps as they consider a new church home.

- f. Motion to bring resolution to a vote by Sam Hatcher
 - i. Seconded by Byard Bost
 - 1. Vote:
 - a. Affirmative: 17
 - b. Negative: 0
 - c. Abstain: 0
 - 2. Resolution Passes
- III. Designated Fund-Greg Klein
 - a. Financial Update
 - i. Year to date revenue is ~\$7,000 over budget.
 - 1. Giving is under budget.
 - a. Giving typically increases towards the end of the year.
 - 2. However, other income is over budget.
 - a. Income includes rent, interest earned on savings and investments, usage of the church/space rentals, insurance money.
 - ii. Expenses are \$48,000 under budget.
 - 1. Revenues are typically higher at the end of the year.
 - a. Expenses are also expected to rise as we near the end of the year.
 - b. The expenses from summer are just beginning to show up, so the expenses may rise.
 - 2. Annual audit is a larger expense and has not yet come.
 - iii. Positive variance of \$55,000 year to date.
 - b. Designated Fund
 - i. Over the last 2 years, the Finance Committee reviewed all MUMC financial policies.
 - 1. The finance committee did make some changes, but they could not alter restricted accounts policies.
 - a. Funds contributed could go to one of many accounts rather than a general fund.
 - b. In some cases, the account supported a ministry that was no longer operational.
 - c. Funds could not be move out of a restricted account under the same ministry.
 - d. Consequently, money was going unused.
 - 2. An inventory of all 100 accounts was taken the Finance Committee determined how to use them.
 - a. To address this, the redundant accounts were condensed into a general fund for the specific ministry so that money can be used as it is needed.
 - ii. Questions:
 - 1. Are maximum balances part of the updated policies?

- a. Yes-if a maximum balance is reached, some of it will need to be spent, or donors will be directed to where there is a financial need.
 - b. Maximum balance varies by restricted account.
 - 2. Are Sunday School class funds going to be generalized?
 - a. No-Sunday School accounts will remain restricted.
 - iii. Direct additional questions to Greg Klein
- IV. Alliance Center for Education Update-Pastor Paul Craig
 - a. We currently have a Ukrainian preschool occupying part of the preschool wing.
 - i. The Ukrainian Legacy School has requested additional classroom space and will begin offering classes in English as well as Ukrainian.
 - b. The Alliance Center (formerly Bethlehem Center) will take some classroom space for Pre-K and Kindergarten classrooms.
 - i. Mecklenburg PreK will assist with some students and open enrollment will be extended to the Mecklenburg County community.
- V. Endowment Update-Sam Hatcher
 - a. A new Endowment donation vehicle, the Giving Portal, administered by the United Methodist Foundation, has been approved for donors to make contributions.
 - i. Donations can be made anonymously.
 - ii. Information is handled by the foundation-it is not something MUMC must handle in-house.
 - b. The endowment has surpassed \$500,000 and is quickly approaching the \$600,000 mark.
 - c. The Giving Portal is not yet live, so an official announcement has not yet been made.
 - i. An announcement regarding the Giving Portal will be made during the Endowment Celebration Dinner: September 28th 6:30-8:00 PM
 - 1. Admission is \$25.00/person and includes dinner and music.
- VI. Pastor Chuck's Update-Pastor Chuck Wilson
 - a. Transportation ministry to Matthews Glen will have a "soft beginning" on Sunday September 10th.
 - i. In the early days, transportation will be provided to the 11:00 AM worship service.
 - b. The Pathways to Discipleship fall worship series will begin on Sunday September 10th.
 - c. The Good and Beautiful Life Study will be held on Wednesday nights beginning on September 13th and continuing for 10 weeks until November 15th.
 - i. This study takes an in-depth look at the Sermon on the Mount
 - d. The Building Committee will be meeting later this week to look at some additional drawings of the work that will be done on the Sanctuary. Work includes:
 - i. HVAC upgrades
 - ii. ADA accessible upgrades

- iii. Refresh of Chancel space
- e. Signs of Hope
- f. Employee Retention Credits
 - i. Debbie Fitts asked about applying for ERC through the Internal Revenue Service.
 - ii. Employee Retention Credit application was approved in December 2022, but the announcement was held until money was deposited.
 - 1. There is still money that has been granted that has not been disbursed.
 - iii. In total, MUMC will receive over \$600,000.
 - 1. The Ad Council, Finance Committee, and Board of Trustees will meet in the coming months to discuss how the money can be used to support ministries.
 - 2. Funds cannot be used for the Endowment.