

FUMC Church Council Meeting
Minutes

Monday, Mar 18 6:30 pm

**Loveland FUMC is an inclusive and safe community that values unconditional love. We embrace diversity and strive to live in harmony with the teachings of Jesus Christ.
Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.**

We welcomed Janeen, Rev Lee, Keith, Mary, Betty, John K, Richard, John M, Joy, Judy, Rick, Marlene, Barry and guest Dale Thurman.

We missed Rev Leslie, Nicole, Pam, Susan, Shannon, Karen, Kathryn, Andrea, Ellen, Matthew and Mike

Welcome, devotion, opening prayer

Judy Stout

"Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike?

May we not be of one heart though we are not of one opinion?

Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding their smaller differences." John Wesley

Sermon 39/140

Prayer concerns ~ Rick's sister Pat passed away very recently; prayers for her husband Chuck and their two children Will and Hannah.

Pastor/Staff

Pastors

Rev Leslie & Rev Lee

Financial Secretary

Ellen Shepherd

Church Treasurer

Karen Lumpkin

Music Coordinator

Kathryn Peiffer

Choir Director

Nicole Cecilian

Youth Ministries Coordinator

Matthew Utley

Children's Ministries Coordinator

Shannon Heusinkveld

Bell Choir Director

Susan Harding

Committees

Lay Leader

Janeen Anderson

Staff Parish John Morgan reported that SPRC has filled the staff liaison positions.

Finance Rick Tessean reported that while January was an excellent month (due to several families giving their whole pledge for the year), February was underwhelming.

***Trustees**

Richard Kittel

Abiding Memorials

Betty Hill

Stewardship

John Kindred

Missions and Social Concerns

Barry Wehrle

Marketing & Outreach

Andrea Ortega

Membership

Janeen Anderson

Safety and Security

Keith Flaming

UM Foundation

Mike Westbrook

Church Financial Secretary

Ellen Shepherd

Lay Members to AC

Mary Hannon

At Large Marlene Thurman, Joy Shaw, Pam Erickson

*** Richard responded to Dale's question about giving the congregation an accounting of the property sale. Richard said it is his responsibility; he saw the report and thought it had been done. He will look for the document and see that it gets printed. Debbie Tikka did present a report to the congregation during a church service. It will be put on the church website (send to Mark Elliott).**

Discussion

1. "Autopsy of a Dying Church" ~ Rev Lee began the conversation with the question, "How does this book make you feel?"

- more concerned than before
- sadness, relief (knowing nothing is wrong just with us)
- connection, hope, anger

The point of the book is to learn from others although just because someone else does it doesn't mean we have to. Don't be disappointed if we try something and it doesn't work.

Thoughts relative to the book from participants:

- We aren't involved enough in the community.
- Most pastors could have written the book; I feel for pastors who tried to change things but met stone walls. People hang on to what they have.
- We don't want to hear, "this is coming," we want to be extraordinary.
- Years ago there were families with young children. They provided energy and vitality to the church. We need to meet the needs of those people (i.e., those who attended the 9:45 service). Response: we will begin conversations with some of those people in April (but remember, they are no longer young with young children).
- We hope to retain our own youth.
- We need to develop a new attitude, feeling the presence of the Lord, vibrancy, feeling like we want to be here.

- Fellowship is important. We should be 'hosts' to all who come.
- How will we serve the community?
- The church refuses to look like the community. On the other hand, what does the community look like?
- After the Leadership Retreat, we asked about getting a circumference map to get a better idea of community. Go out seven miles, that will be very different from one mile out.
- Provide/support community activities such as Scouts as we used to do.

2. Charlie's ideas about turning the building into an asset while serving the community

There was a natural segue from the "Autopsy..." discussion to the discussion of what we might do to our building as Charlie suggested.

Important to remember as we continue this discussion tonight and going forward:

- We need congregational behavioral modification.
- We need to focus on flexibility and willingness to change.
- We need to turn "We can't do it" into "How can we get it done?"

Joy presented feedback from her walkthroughs with Keith & Judy and with Charlie and Ann Kessler.

- From "Autopsy..."—The Lydia Room in a church that everyone loved; arguments over aspects of that room ultimately caused the death of that church. People held on to things that were of little importance in the end.
- Nothing will get done until we find an objective (probably not member of the church) project manager.
- Use of the facility is more important than revenue.
- There is ample space for offices and meeting rooms.
- In using the space, we need to consult with the 'stakeholders,' those who have 'ownership' of those rooms/spaces.
- There are some territorial groups who don't take care of their spaces.
- We need to discuss rental costs and have a firm policy and fee structure. (We have a policy. Trustees will revisit and bring back to CC.)
- We need to prioritize closets that are full of stuff. Perhaps youth/5 Ms could clean out and have a garage sale??
- We can use 'splits' to air condition upper floors.
- We need more AV capability (i.e. the room used for kids' music).
- We probably can't make the space above the sanctuary ADA compliant (but we can find other solutions when necessary).
- Membership and employee information is in a locked closet (per law) in Fellowship Hall, and we need to remember that when planning on using that space. That closet will be unavailable for other use.
- Mary reminded us that we are a tax-exempt entity, and need to protect that status. There were several responses indicating that we are aware, and will follow the law.
 - o Many churches rent space, pay taxes on what they earn and keep their TE status.
 - o We will continue to be diligent in maintaining our TE status by seeking legal opinions.
 - o One response is that as long as we are serving our mission (the community), our TE status will be protected.

Keith presented feedback from walkthroughs and his experiences with Safety & Security.

- We *do* have a Facility and Usage policy.
- We need to be careful with our profit.
- Work has been done to Coy Hall and Lobby Court to make it community-friendly.
- We could offer coffee in Lobby Court as a service to those who attend.
- There isn't much traffic at the AskMe Desk, so we could rework that space.
- We need to hire decorators for Coy Hall.
- Trustees will discuss how to make a place for community. We need to measure our return on investment to have meeting space and a place to meet and visit for the community.
- Keith asked, "What is our community?" We should have a purpose for what we plan to do.

A motion was made by Keith, seconded by Mary 'that we continue to examine different ideas for utilization of the building.'

Discussion:

- Joy expressed her excitement over the possibilities, but noted her concern that these efforts will be tabled unless we find someone to spearhead the process. We need a driver.
- Judy asked for confirmation that Rev Leslie and Rev Lee are fully committed. They are, but they can't be the ones to make it all happen. They will encourage, support and cheerlead!

Motion passed unanimously.

(Keith also added that we will add details and plan for measuring the success of changes.)

This conversation will continue at the April meeting and for many months to come.

3. Update on Mission Insight and Readiness 360? **These are tools to help understand our community; more discussion at the next meeting.**

Closing thought from "Autopsy..."

God give my church and me a heart for our community. Let me see the people through Your eyes. And give me the courage and the wisdom to let go of this church, so that others who best reflect this community can lead us and teach us.
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Next meeting: April 22 @ 6:30