

## 2024 Church Council Committee Reports

### **Pastors, Rev Leslie Wood**

The Easter season has flown by. It's been a busy past few weeks.

Since Easter we have:

- Held two Lunch & Learn sessions (4/7 & 4/14) after church to get feedback for a potential future alternative worship service. Next step, convene a task force to discuss feasibility, possibility and logistics. This will be discussed at our worship committee meeting on Wednesday, 5/22.
- Held two Cuisine, Catchup & Conversation potlucks after church 4/21 & 5/19. In addition to good food and good fellowship, Rick Tessean spoke about the financial status of the church and Rev. Lee and I gave updates on, first, what to watch for at General Conference 2020 (in 2024) and then what happened at General Conference 2020.
- Held an FUMC 101 class on 4/28 for those interested in exploring membership in FUMC. 16 invitations were sent out to families who have visited regularly over the past year. Only four attended or responded with interest. Three new members, Lindsay Gerwing, Barbara Webb and Michele Moore, joined on May 19<sup>th</sup>. One said that she is interested but wants to wait. One other responded to the invitation asking us to "invite her again next time."

I completed my annual clergy evaluation with SPRC and turned it into the conference offices in early May. One of the SMART goals we set is to conduct a member audit. This hasn't been done in some years and it is important to get an accurate picture of FUMC's current status and how the trends of decline in church attendance are affecting this congregation.

Staff evaluations began last week and will conclude this week. I am grateful for our dedicated staff. We did say goodbye to one staff member, Shannon Heusinkveld and her family, as they moved to Kansas. We will miss her dedication to the children's ministry program and their family in general as the whole family has been active members of FUMC. SPRC is beginning discussions on a new hire for the Children's Ministry Coordinator position.

Matthew Utley will begin an internship in September 2024 through May 2025 as a part of his MDiv studies at Iliff. In addition to his youth ministries role, Matthew will serve as a ministerial assistant, working with Lee and me to learn "ins and outs" of pastoral ministry that aren't taught in the academic classroom. I will serve as his on-site supervisor.

### **Rev Lee Anderson Harris**

Since we last met, General Conference has come and gone with significant changes and an entry way into healing. Leslie and I will share updates at the informational potluck on May 19. The day-to-day functioning of FUMC will not be impacted by the decisions made.

As I review parts of the *Autopsy* book and read/listen to resources about church trends, our presence in the community as a church is increasingly on my mind. People are not church shopping in the way they might once have. There are exceptions, of course. But overall, going outside of the building and showing people what we're about is more and more important. This does not replace the importance of being welcoming once people come to the building, nor should it supersede plans to use the building in new ways. I think it's another piece of the puzzle, and one that I feel God might be calling me toward.

The Missions/Social Concerns Committee is coordinating some new opportunities for being in service in the community. In addition, I have been reflecting on the intersection of community service as a way to live out one's faith and as a way for FUMC to be more visible in the community. Would regular FUMC service days be a feasible and effective way of doing both? Should I invest more time in finding and supporting ways to get church members "out there?"

While the World Labyrinth Day "open house" on May 4<sup>th</sup> was not a whopping success, it did introduce FUMC's labyrinth as a spiritual tool to a couple of members of the congregation. And, it did not discourage me from trying it again! I plan to hold these throughout the summer as a way to not only teach about this spiritual practice, but also to provide some visibility in the surrounding area. With more lead time for publicity and with neighbors seeing the activity (and a warmer day!), perhaps we'll get some more bites. Thank you to Judy Stout for participating! Leslie was present all morning, and I am hopeful that others can participate in the future in case there are some new folks to connect with.

I am evaluating the effectiveness of the Centering Prayer ministry. No one from the community outside of FUMC has attended a gathering yet. There were quite a few views of the online videos during Lent, but the views tapered off after the first few weeks and there is no way to track who watched them. There is room for more publicity, but I am also asking two questions: 1) Would more consistency (ie, weekly) in the gatherings be the solution and 2) Does this meet an actual need? All this said, I am celebrating the fact more people from the congregation have been introduced to this spiritual practice!

Building use conversations continue to involve questions and concerns about tax exempt status. To help with this, I reached out to Randy Starr for a conversation. On April 16, he met with Leslie, Richard Kittel and me to provide some answers to these questions, and said he is available for further conversation if needed. Here is the summary of what he shared:

- The 501c3 status is not something we need to be concerned with that much. This is only in jeopardy if we do something extreme, and what we're talking about doing is not extreme, it's in the realm of typical.
- Property tax exemption is what we are talking about when we discuss what is at risk from renting the building to for-profit entities. The church can choose to whom the building is rented, whether non-profit or for-profit. Paying property taxes on the parts of the building used for for-profit entities is the way to protect against scrutiny.
- The bylaws are easy to change. If the church wants to change them to reflect new policies, it can.

I will end this report with a thought that was generated from a conversation with Judy Stout about getting to know our neighbors. What would it be like to commit random acts of kindness in the neighborhood...leaving gifts or uplifting messages on their doorsteps, or something along those lines? And not with any strings attached, but just because?  
Yours in Christ, Lee

#### **Youth Ministries Coordinator, Matthew Utley**

- As many of you know, we had to say goodbye to the Heusinkveld family as they moved to Kansas. To celebrate Noah and Naomi's participation in the youth program throughout the years we hosted a lock-in a couple of weeks ago. We have eight youth participate in total with one first timer who left their contact information for future events.
- Youth group and youth events are still held throughout the summer, although participation can be spotty as summer activities and trips take up much of their time.
- On June 2nd we will join with FUMC Fort Collins for a hike at Horsetooth.
- This year the youth mission trip will be to Osage Beach MO from June 22nd - 29th. We will work in a food pantry/thrift store, horse sanctuary, and more.

Children's Ministries Coordinator, Shannon Heusinkveld  
Church Treasurer, Karen Lumpkin  
Financial Secretary, Ellen Shepherd

#### **Music Coordinator, Kathryn Peiffer**

##### Music for June

June 2 – Geoffrey Lowe – bass & Jennifer Lowe - violin; Sarah Clegern - soprano

June 9 – Taize Service with Elaine Hild – viola and summer choir directed by Nicole Ceciliani

June 16 – Bill Eads & Ken Kolstee – duet

June 23 – Mark Kubichek, vocal soloist

June 30 – Melanie Peffer & Joanne Scheihing, flute & clarinet duets

##### Taize Service:

The Taize Community started in Taize, France in 1940. Taize music comes from this ecumenical Christian community. It is meditative music based on chants that are easily memorized so participants can focus on the words. Taize theology is based on love, reconciliation and forgiveness.

##### Summer Choir: June 9 and July 7

There will be 2 opportunities this summer to sing with a choir: June 9 and July 7. If you've always wanted to sing in the choir but don't want to drive after the W evening rehearsal, don't read music well or haven't sung in many years this is a great opportunity! The choir will meet in room \_\_\_ to learn a new anthem at 9:00 AM and then sing for worship at 10:00. Nicole has just finished her master's degree in choral conducting and will have many helpful tips to improve your singing. Please join us June 9 & July 7 as we sing for the glory of the Lord. We hope our chancel choir members will also sing.

Choir Director, Nicole Ceciliani  
Bell Choir Director, Susan Harding  
Lay Leader, Janeen Anderson

#### **Staff Parish, John Morgan**

SPRC has met twice in May. We have been working on two main items:

- finishing clergy assessments
- rewrite the Children's Coordinator job description to include child care for Union meetings

### Finance, Rick Tessean

We reviewed the minutes from March's meeting:

- The \$412,041 that has been invested with the Northern Colorado Community Foundation had been agreed to the to make the recommendation to the Church Council that we use the Balanced Pool (Medium Risk). There was not enough time at the Council Meeting to review our recommendation so it was put off till the meeting on Monday. The monies are currently invested in that pool but could be changed.
- We are still waiting to see the reporting from the NCCF in order to determine our reporting on our financial statement.
- We have included the 57<sup>th</sup> Street funds \$412,041, on our list of assets as it is an asset of the Church and different from other assets of the Methodist Foundation.
- Karen did invest an additional \$50k from our checking account into a CD, was moved and approved

Other business:

- We concluded to ask Steve McMillan for permission to use Talents Unlimited funds for Matthew Uteley's internship funds, approximately \$4,000. We also will find out who else is on the Talent Unlimited's Committee. That is my action item.
- After discussion a motion was made, seconded and approved for Karen to invest an additional \$50k in a CD with a duration of 11 or 12 months.
- There is an imbalance of \$500 in our Restricted Accounts shown on pages 8 and 10 on our Financial Documents. Karen will look into this item.
- We reviewed the funds received from Pikes New Ministries Council. There were 2 checks, one for \$50,000 for Union Ministries and one for \$38,519 for new ministries or programs within our church. I will review this with the Congregation at Sunday's pot luck.
- We reviewed at Richard Kittel's request some budget items for the Trustees. This helped clear up misconceptions about money for which Trustees have access. They are in the midst of several requests from the Methodist Foundation for safety and property improvements.

### Trustees, Richard Kittel

The Board of Trustees met May 9, 2024, and worked on several issues.

- Approved building usage for a local Girl Scout Troop that will start meeting in Fellowship Hall this August. Scouts will also have access to the adjoining kitchen. They perform many service projects for the community. We look forward to sharing space with them.
- We have been working on several safety issues and presented the Methodist Foundation budget request this month. We need to firm up estimates.
  - o Carpet Replacement & Repairs – Tripping Hazards: \$50,000.  
We are looking at having more repairs made versus replacement.
  - o West Parking Lot Drainage: \$20,500.  
NOTE: Safety Item: Water from melting snow has nowhere to run; when it freezes, we have ice from the north street, curb, and across the sidewalk. Numerous people fall during the winter months, NO lawsuits to date.
  - o Automatic doors openers to allow handicap entry:
    - Coy Hall Bathrooms (2) NOTE: This does NOT make these Bathrooms ADA compliant: \$10,000
    - West Coy Hall Vestibules, (2): \$10,000
    - South Lobby Court Vestibules, (2): \$10,000
    - Installation of door added to bottom of ramp in Sanctuary \$ 5,000TOTAL Door Openers: \$35,000.
  - o Handrail – North side of Sanctuary Ramp: \$ 2,700.
  - o Fire Doors – Coy Hall: \$ 2,500
  - o Lighting, Northwest Parking Lot, Security & Safety: \$ 2,500.

**TOTAL:**

**\$113,200.**

**Abiding Memorials, Betty Hill**

Once again, the Abiding Memorials Committee has nothing to report and has not met recently.

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

Lay Members to AC, Mary Hannon

At Large, Pam Erickson, Joy Shaw and Marlene Thurman

Communications Chair TBD