

FUMC Church Council Mini Retreat  
Minutes

Monday, May 20 5:30

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.

**Present:** Janeen, Rev Lee, Keith, Mary, Betty, John K, Richard, John M, Kathryn, Judy, Rick, Marlene, Matthew, Barry, Rev Leslie and featured guest Charlie Bouchard  
**Unable to attend:** Nicole, Pam, Susan, Shannon, Karen, Andrea, Joy, Ellen, Mike

Welcome Judy Stout

**Light supper (thanks to Deb Adams for wraps and Betty for fruit)**

**During the meal, Judy stated that some people don't have a chance to participate in the discussion and she will try to be more mindful of ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to be heard. (Feedback on this will be appreciated!)**

Devotion/'Autopsy...' Rev Lee

**Lee summarized the book as "an inward focus on the church leads to death." That is, if the focus is primarily on members' needs rather than the community's needs, the church will die.**

- Council members agreed, but noted that we need a balance. Members do have needs, but that can't be the only focus.
- People [in the congregation] need to know where we are going. Leaders [pastors, CC] need to lead—let people know what is going on.
- Our vision needs to be communicated and people need to know why a change of vision is necessary..
- CC needs to be clear about where we want to go.
- What symptoms do we notice? We seem to be a 'preference-driven church.'
- Where is our outreach?
- Where are our 'Lydia's rooms?' Except for all offices (and maybe Bells Room because of security) should be open for a variety of uses.
- There is real resistance to change (not just in this church).

Prayer concerns ~ **Dave and Sandy Beagle. Dave (son-in-law of Laurie Mullins) fell and broke multiple bones.**

**Pastor/Staff**

Pastors Rev Leslie & Rev Lee

**Rev Leslie told the group about an online workshop "How to use Church Property for Mission." It will be Tues 21<sup>st</sup>, and Judy will forward the email with information. Those who can't watch in person can access the recording.**

**Blurb...**

Financial Secretary	Ellen Shepherd
Church Treasurer	Karen Lumpkin
Music Coordinator	Kathryn Peiffer
Choir Director	Nicole Ceciliani
Youth Ministries Coordinator	Matthew Utlej
Children's Ministries Coordinator	Shannon Heusinkveld
Bell Choir Director	Susan Harding

**Committees**

Lay Leader	Janeen Anderson
Staff Parish	John Morgan
Finance	Rick Tessean

**Rick told us that our \$412K has been invested in a 'balanced' pool which is fairly conservative. If there are questions or discussion, we will bring it up at the next meeting.**

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

Mini-Retreat Business

Rev Leslie

- Updates

- o Proposals for building use

- Charlie ~ preschool: **This seems to be the one project most people have agreed on. Charlie will meet with Karen and Todd Piccone (Asst Sup of Operations) next Thurs to look at the space. The district has to fill open spaces in the district before they can rent elsewhere, but since Truscott and Garfield are in a 'preschool desert' FUMC may be able to meet that need.**
- Commissary kitchen: **Judy reported that Rev Leslie, Richard and she met with Jen McCollum from the city to discuss. Ours would be a 'commissary kitchen' rather than a 'commercial kitchen' because the church would not be preparing food to sell. We would be renting the kitchen to vendors who would prepare food here, then sell it elsewhere. To qualify as a commissary kitchen we would have to have a grease trap and a type 1 vent hood.**

**Judy has attempted to contact Gus's Commissary Kitchen in Loveland and will continue to do so.**

- **Question: Is there a demand for this? Answer: We would need to do a market analysis.**
- **Question: Is it doable? Answer: Yes, at a reasonable cost.**

- Keith's chart

Community...vs. target audience(s) e.g. schools, Latinx community, recovery groups, small businesses (for profit or non-profit) whose business mission fits within our own, foster families

- **Keith introduced the chart, explaining that Trustees would be discussing it further. The chart is an effort to organize the information we have received into a manageable document.**
- **Two statements at the bottom of the chart led to a lengthy discussion: Are we using existing assets to serve our community which does not necessarily require 'for-profit?'; and 'Are we turning the building into an asset to serve our community which requires 'for-profit?'**
- **The unadulterated question from those who appear wary of using our building to rent space seems to be: "Are we renting out our space *just* to make money?"**

**Comments relative to this discussion:**

- **Keith's two statements ask for an either/or answer when the answer may lie between.**
- **How does this serve the community if people have to pay for space? Ans: We can charge affordable rent.**
- **Can we have both profit and not-for-profit LLCs? Ans: Yes, there can be two corporations at the same church. FUMC also has the United Methodist Foundation, and Rez has two LLCs that are suing each other...**
- **Would charging for space be like the money-changers in the temple? Ans: No, we would not be doing this for nefarious reasons. We would charge reasonable rent and that would cover costs incurred as well as providing additional funds that could be used for many kinds of other missional work.**
- **Rental income would give this church a chance to *be* the church into the future. There is no intent to drive up profits to serve our own needs.**
- **If we do nothing, the church will cease to exist within a few years.**
- **Keith will send out the Building Use Policy.**

- o HEART

- Rev. Leslie ~ Alternative service
  - **Lunch & Learn report ~ Several people who attended the previous alternate worship service met to give input on what made that service special to them.**
  - **Worship Committee is meeting May 22 and will consider planning for an alternative service that would probably start Jan 2025.**
- Rev Lee ~ Centering Prayer ministry and Labyrinth ministry
  - **Although neither ministry has attracted people from the community, leaders lead by doing, setting an example, trying new things. And we will continue to do so.**
  - **This is expanding the boundaries of our church INSIDE our building.**

- o HANDS

- Barry ~ Fostering Families
- Truscott Support Plans (beyond preschool)

- o HEAD

- **Great Decisions 2025 ~ Rev Leslie gave us a handout of Great Decision topics. We will discuss this as a community option at the next meeting.**
- Lee's classes...reports and plans

- o HEALTHY BODY & SOUL

- Yoga
- Matthew ~ mental health/resilience ~ **This will be a focus of Matthew's internship starting in the fall.**

o TOOLS FOR SUCCESS

- Mission Insight quantitative research
- Readiness 360 qualitative research
- Autopsy of a Deceased Church
  - How & when to engage the congregation in an all-church study. **We will wait until we are better prepared to answer questions. We will decide whether the Readiness 360 results would provide a better context for discussion of the book with the congregation.**

Closing thought from "Autopsy..."

"Pray that God will open the eyes of the leadership and members for opportunities to reach into the community where the church is located."

(because, according to Rev Lee, the purpose of church is to bless and serve the community!)

**Rev Lee reported that she had a dream in which she heard the words 'casa adapta,' She interpreted this as 'we are adapting the building (our house) to meet current needs.'**

**Next meetings:**

**July 8 @ 6:30**

**Sept 9, mini retreat 5:30 – 7:30**

**Oct 28 @ 6:30**

**Nov 18 or Dec 1 to approve budget**

**Church Conference date TBD**

"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