

Grace United Methodist Church
Simplified Accountable Leadership Team Meeting
April 15th, 2024, 7pm

Our Mission: To invite all people to encounter and develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, all for the glory of God.

Core Values: Christ, hospitality, participation, spiritual growth, relationships, service, evangelism, scripture.

Present: Chris Walls, Mary Lou Vinson, Eric Falker, Pete Larsen, Zach DeYoung, Jake Manchester, Rae Vaught. Bob Richards was out of town.

7:07pm – Meeting called to order by Chris Walls. Opening Prayer/Spiritual Formation – Pastor Eric. Pastor Eric reminded us of our mission statement and core values and the mission statement of the UMC. Eric led a devotion from Luke 15, the parable of the lost sheep.

Old Business

1. Review March minutes. No additions or corrections. Minutes approved.

New Business

1. Graduation Sunday is May 26th. HS Graduate families have been contacted. Will have a cake reception (Justin Miller will get the cake). Graduates: Lucas, Leila, Lela, Ayla, and Ian.
2. UMC General Conference is April 23-May 3. Please be in prayer for our denomination. No action required. Pastor Eric noted that the church is trying to cut about 46% of their budget.
3. Michigan Annual Conference is May 29-June 2. Need a speaker for June 2, or do a music Sunday. Eric noted that he's still looking for a speaker for this Sunday. Mary Lou suggested possibly asking Mary Erva. We could possibly have a music Sunday as well.
4. Quarterly finance statements are being sent this week. Giving is up slightly from last year. (\$32,568 as of April 1st). Financial statements were sent to the SALT separately.
5. Water heaters – still waiting on information. One heater is working. Neither is repairable. Jeff Paulson is looking into the dishwasher with the health department to make sure that we meet the requirements.
6. Fire extinguishers are out for testing and recharging. Temporary ones are installed. Reduced number from 12 to 10 to save costs. Total cost of \$996.98.

General rule of thumb is that we don't want to be more than 75 feet from a fire extinguisher. So we'll be covered even with 10.

7. Elevator will be tested and certified. Cost is \$2591.77. Elevator will be certified for 3 years. Pastor Eric is wanting to make sure we are aware of it. It has to be done to have a licensed elevator. Eric will make sure the contract is sent to the company tomorrow.
8. Questions from Chapter One of Mission Possible.
 - a. How are family systems playing out in your small church? How is the family system healthy? What might need to be addressed to support a healthier system?
 - b. Take inventory of which challenges and strengths from the lists above apply to your church. How can your church build on its strengths?
 - c. What one challenge, if eliminated, could have the most positive impact on the vitality of your church? How might your church work to eliminate the challenge in the upcoming year?
9. The group had a wide ranging discussion about church meals, graduation recognition, etc. Also discussion about mission trip fundraisers, graduation recognitions, etc. Planning on a grill-out event on Father's Day. Discussion about children's ministry as well. How do we staff Sunday School and make sure that it is a smooth transition. Idea: make sure that the leader is in the sanctuary to take them out from the sanctuary.
10. Pastor Eric let us know that we got a letter from Red Bird Mission wondering if we would like to continue partnering with them. What would we like to do with this? We would like to make a donation. Jake noted that we should talk to the congregation about this as well. We'll ask the congregation to match \$100 from the Pastor's discretionary fund.
11. Other items? (related to Trustees, Finance, or Staff-Parish)

Review Who/What/When

1. What decisions were made?
2. Who needs to communicate the decisions and to whom?
3. When will we follow up on said decisions?

8:36pm – Closing prayer by SALT chair Chris Walls

– Next meeting is Monday, May 13th, 2024, 7-8:30pm