

Grace United Methodist Church
Simplified Accountable Leadership Team Meeting
June 10th, 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, Eric Falker, Pete Larsen, Zach DeYoung, Jake Manchester, Bob Richards, Mary Lou Vinson, and Rae Vaught. Lezley Heldt was not available.

7:06 pm – Prayer/Spiritual Formation – Pastor Eric read the story from Numbers 22 about Balaam and his donkey. Don't overlook humble sources. Consider the perspectives of others when looking for wisdom. Be open to finding God and wisdom in unexpected places.

7:11 pm – Old Business

1. Review May minutes. Bob motioned to approve the minutes. All in favor.
2. Michigan Annual Conference – Zach will be giving a report this coming Sunday. Pastor Eric will ask Zach questions in an interview style. Bob asked how things went. Pastor Eric reported that this was very smooth compared to prior years. However, there were still some controversial and/or emotional issues discussed (e.g., Israel/Palestine war, refraining from travel there during the war, encouraging church members to advocate for peace). However, these issues were fewer than prior years. A lot of business. Ordinations, closed churches, memorial service, recognized retirements, etc. Zach reported that the theme was "Fearless." Zach noted that it is a time of reorientation with the recent changes in the denomination. Looking forward to new things and new ways of doing ministry. Good worship services and small groups.
3. Quarterly finance statements will go out in the beginning of July. Finance reports not available. No report available now but it will be available in the church soon.
4. Water heaters have been installed. Elevator has been tested. Fire extinguishers should be delivered soon.
5. VBS time change – due to volunteer availability, times are now 6pm to 8pm. Dates will be August 5-9.

New Business

6. Approve Investment Policy. The proposed investment policy was circulated via Google doc for comments. Zach moved that we table this discussion to add a preamble. All were in favor, noting that we have the money in the appropriate account and aren't looking to spend in the short term. Pete suggested that we add a name for the fund. Eric will work on the next draft and circulate for additional comment.
7. Set dates for next Protection Policy Training. Pastor Eric noted that we said we'd do these monthly but haven't done one since the first one. 11:30 on Sunday July 14 will be the next one. Pastor Eric will lead it. Rae is willing to help with future ones but is not

available on the 14th. We confirmed that we want to have this before VBS and that youth can be trained even though the background check won't show anything.

8. July 21st – Outdoor Service. Will we be eating, and who will be the coordinator? Pastor Eric noted that there are no grills if we wanted to do food at the park. We could do a different type of food. Zach offered to bring a grill. Between Zach & Eric's grills we think it should be ok to do brats, hot dogs, and hamburgers. Painesdale will join us.
9. Nominations for SALT class of 2027. (According to our roster, Jake, Mary Lou, and Chris are rolling off in December/January.) We brainstormed ideas. Pastor Eric has the list and will reach out to people and let people know from the pulpit about the opportunity coming up.
10. Questions from Chapter Two of Mission Possible. (p.29-30)
 - a. What tasks does the pastor perform in the average month? Pastor Eric noted that he made a list recently. It was long and it is hard to put a time commitment to many of the items. Home/shut-in visits, preaching, supervising/working with the secretary, website (should this be someone else?), editing the church service videos, funerals, weddings, counseling, visiting the sick, services at the Bluffs, teaching confirmation, baptisms. Conference and district duties also add up. Training the A/V people (this should be someone else). Rae noted that Eric is also involved in church maintenance things (estimates for elevator, water heater, etc.) Broader discussion: for example, who cleans the area after coffee hour? There used to be a team. Now it is hit or miss and people step up (mostly) when help is needed. We have a custodian for the main things. There are other things (e.g., clean up the youth room) that Eric does when he sees they need doing. Another area in need of volunteers is the Sunday School group. We need more volunteers in that area.
 - b. How much time does it take to complete each task and how does that compare to the pastor's available time? The broad discussion here surrounded the issue that Pastor Eric is doing things that need to be done but that no one seems to be stepping up to do. Zach suggested that we think about this like we are starting a new church. Who will step up to do what needs to be done? Takeaway: Pastor Eric will continue to look for things to delegate. Jake noted that there are two areas of focus for us: 1) what do people think the pastor should be doing that you can't do? How can we help you do those? 2) What are you doing that you don't want to be doing or aren't called to do. How can we help you offload those things? Zach wondered, for example, how much value does the service video editing add? The general consensus was that there isn't anything that Pastor Eric isn't doing that we wish he was doing. It is more the second list (things that we might be able to take off his plate.)
 - c. What tasks should be prioritized? What can be laid aside? What can be delegated to a disciple? (Addressed in the discussion above.)
 - d. What is one thing learned from this exercise that might help the pastor and congregation serve Christ more fruitfully together? Zach noted that some of the discussion at Annual Conference was about use of space. Should we/can we

think about how the space is used in the church during the week. Jake suggested a maintenance list.

b) Other items?

11. Pastor will be at Lake Louise June 21-29 and vacation June 30-July 6.
12. Zach asks SALT's approval to invite people to create art to hang on the wall in the Narthex area. Painting, mixed media, etc. (subject to approval). Empty wall space is a great opportunity. Consensus was to proceed with this.
13. Zach also asked about curating the library downstairs. Removing some old Bible study items, old books, etc. and then we can bring in things that might be of value. We all approve. Consensus was also to approve this.

8:31pm – Review Who/What/When

What decisions were made? Who needs to communicate them and to whom? When will we follow up on said decisions?

1. Preamble for the fund policy. Jake will do this part and send it back out again.
2. Eric will send out a list of people who haven't attended recently to the SALT.
3. Eric will teach Rae about Youtube editing.
4. Zach will report on Annual Conference this Sunday.
5. Zach will work on the library and the art ideas for the church space.
6. Zach & Eric will bring grills to the outdoor service.

8:34pm – Closing prayer – SALT chair Chris Walls

– Next meeting is Monday, July 15th, 2024, 7-8:30pm