

**Grace United Methodist Church**  
**Simplified Accountable Leadership Team Meeting Minutes**  
**October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 7pm**

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

**Attendees:** Pastor Eric, Chris Walls, Rae Vaught, Caryn Heldt, Zach DeYoung, Mary Lou Vinson, Pete Larsen, and Jake Manchester (via zoom).

**7:01pm Prayer and Scripture** – Pastor Eric read a scripture passage from 1 Corinthians. He noted that of the cards received during the stewardship campaign about half have mentioned growth. Pastor Eric opened with prayer.

### **Old Business**

1. Review minutes. Zach moved, Caryn seconded. Carried unanimously.
2. Update on west exterior wall issues. Zach contacted UP Engineers & Architects. They will have someone look at it. Eric will meet with them during business hours when they come to visit.
3. Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM - Phil Lynch concert. Eric noted this as a reminder to come and invite people. He has also given info to Keweenaw report to advertise. Mary Lou will help with snacks after but will need help to get the cups washed afterwards.
4. Fall Conference, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am at Painesdale UMC for the SALT. Full church is at 9:30am. All forms are completed. Who will be attending?
5. Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> – Trunk or Treat. Pastor Eric noted that three families are now signed up. Jake mentioned that Lynn may cancel if there aren't more people. Eric suggested that Lynn contact Vicki to send out an email if we do cancel?
6. Memorial Garden – fixing the siding, ground and tree pruning still need to be done. Gary Heldt is coordinating the Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am clean up. Pete and Chris are planning to be here as well. If the weather is nice, we can check the siding. Pastor Eric will make sure refreshments are available. We should check the nursery as well; removing the items, wiping shelves, throwing away anything that needs to be disposed of.

### **New Business**

1. Andrea Johnson's review was completed with Mary Lou. Overall, it went well. Andrea said we need size 5 diapers. Chris volunteered to get some. Andrea noted that sometimes she is tired after her late shift the night before. Eric mentioned that Andrea's kids should be in the sanctuary instead of the nursery. That's a challenge and a goal that we are working through together with her. But overall she's doing well and feels appreciated. Ardith will be back on October 27.
2. Shall we cancel our Constant Contact account? (\$16/month.)
  - a. Pros: Our office gmail accounts can handle up to 500 messages per day. This also allows us to forward Conference emails.
  - b. Cons: Constant Contact allows people to sign up and unsubscribe by themselves, making it easier to maintain the active list. The secretary will have to update the list herself. Also, CC can be accessed by multiple users.

- c. Discussion: We can do a fair amount with gmail. There is some convenience in continuing what we have, not having to move the contacts over. There is a professional look to it. For ~\$200 per year is it worth it? Jake noted that Gmail has a “layout” function that could be used. There is also a schedule send that could be used. Eric will try google and see if he likes it. Jake offered to help.
3. Pastor’s stuff
- a. Eric noted that some of our withholding taxes to the state of Michigan were not paid on time. We corrected this but got a bill for just under \$400 in penalties, even after they cashed the check. He recommends that we just pay the penalty at this point. SALT agrees by consensus.
  - b. Eric noted that the investments have earned interest this year of about \$15k above our threshold. We also have a CD (camp scholarship funds) at Superior National Bank that will renew on October 21. A 7-month CD is an option as well. That would put us right before summer and then the funds would be available for camp scholarships next summer. Caryn will set us up with a 7-month CD.
  - c. On vacation – October 21-26, November 24-30. Pastor Jeff will be preaching.
  - d. Christmas service, 12/24, at 7pm. (Painesdale at 3pm.)
  - e. Last month: ~40 phone calls to parishioners, 3 bible studies, 2 home/hospital visits, one wedding, 2 chapel services at the Bluffs. (Plus emails and text messages.)
  - f. Zach asked about Pastor Appreciation Month, which is October. Eric says that he feels appreciated and doesn’t need anything at this time.
  - g. Chris mentioned that Melanie might like a harvest potluck sometime this fall. Are we interested? Eric suggests either Nov 3 or Nov 10. But we are very enthusiastic about the idea.
  - h. Mary Lou asked if we should be reviewing a membership report prior to the church conference on Saturday. Eric noted that there isn’t anyone on the list for removal this year. However, he does have a list of people who haven’t been in church in a month. We want to keep on top of this to make not of those who might be drifting away.

### **Review What/Who/When**

**7:48pm** – Closing prayer by Chris Walls.

– **Next meeting is Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:30pm**

**Church Conference – October 19<sup>th</sup> at Painesdale UMC:**

**SALT meeting with DS at 9:00am, whole church meeting at 9:30am.**