

Mt. Pisgah Church Council

Thursday, June 27, 2019

Room S305

Attendees: Alan White, Kim Thompson, Bob Collins, Rey Versola, Rita Felice, Heather Jallad, Michael Jordan, Jason Zemke, Keith Cooper, Bob Fincher, Glenda Fincher, Buddy Lollis, Connie Lollis, Bryan Beach, Patti Fowle, Jeremiah Borger, Jorge Henao, German Betancourt, Mark Danzey Helen Caudill, Becky Williams, Mickey Lyons

Welcome and Announcements – Bryan Beach

Opening Prayer, Call to Order @ 6:38– Bryan Beach. Bryan said his father is doing better and thanked everyone for their prayers.

Approve Minutes from February 7th Meeting – Bob Collins, seconded by Jeremiah Borger. Minutes approved

Michael Jordan, Missions Pastor – Michael introduced himself, gave a brief personal background (married to Penny, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild), and provided an updated on missions at Mount Pisgah. He encouraged people to get out of their comfort zone to serve and worship in a different culture. His vision is to sharpen Mount Pisgah's focus on missions; to be more strategic, develop deeper relationships with fewer mission partners and more meaningful investments. He plans to provide mission opportunities for people of all ages, at different levels of spiritual maturity, and different levels of financial support. Student Ministry is thriving with missions, but we continue to have an adult engagement issue. His primary focus will be in this area. He ended his presentation with a story of attending a church service in Nigeria. In the last 2 years more Christians have been persecuted and killed in Northern Nigeria than in the rest of the world. Mount Pisgah has been investing in and support Christians in Northern Nigeria for 10 years.

Heather Jallad, Pastor of Community Engagement – Heather will be working with Mount Pisgah part-time and for the NGUMC Conference part-time. She is also working with Fresh Expressions US. She has spent the last 7 years as Associate Pastor at Douglasville First UMC in Douglasville, GA. Her passion is to bring the church to the people and meeting people where they are. She showed a video explaining what Fresh Expressions of Church is and how it reaches people who would otherwise never enter a church building. She started a Fresh Expressions Dinner Church in Douglasville 1.5 years ago. She is hoping to have Learning Sessions in the Fall to further explain this concept of church. She is married to Marten. They have a daughter who will be a senior at Young Harris College and one who will be a junior at Alpharetta HS.

Financial Update – Helen Caudill - Helen met with both the Trustees (June 9) and Finance Committee (June 10) who both approved the 2020 Capital Budget. Both approved the budget. She did not go into detail about the budget, but said she was available to meet if anyone desired more explanation.

Revenue fell short at \$292K. This could possibly be due to a drop in attendance and giving units. It could also be due to moving from a Pledge concept to Reoccurring Giving concept and key donors moving and/or retiring. The Leadership Team is working on a new strategy and new goals to attract new members and increase retention. More information will be forthcoming from Steve Wood and Mark Danzey.

Expenses: Staff did an excellent job at cutting costs and managing expenses - \$95K under the budget. \$197K net loss reported for operations due to giving shortfall of \$292k to budget. Could not cut costs any more. Had a \$150K surplus last year as compared to \$197k loss this year.

2019-2020 proposes a 3% increase in giving. Steve Wood has worked with a few of the top donors who have increased their commitments

Have asked staff to keep their budgets flat. There will be no staff increases, but potentially will give bonuses in January if budgets are met.

Capital Budget – Commended the Trustees. This building is 20 years old and will need repairs. Some planned expenses are: \$250K for a new bus; resurface the front entrance; refurbish the cemetery building; re-carpet Studio A; renovate two Full Day classrooms on the lower level. The MPCS is giving up two classrooms that should be available in mid September. These will be used for Adult SS classes. \$50K of the Jubilee reserves has been approved to renovate the classrooms. There is currently \$109K in the Jubilee reserve leaving a \$59k balance for future projects.

\$75k is proposed from the reserve from the prior year to arrive at a balance budget. We did not want to increase giving nor could we eliminate staff. This \$75k reserve will not be utilized unless necessary.

Keith Cooper motion to approve the budget. Seconded by Buddy Lollis.

Annual Conference Update– Bob Fincher - Bob thanked the delegates to the 2019 NGUMC Annual Conference - Glenda Fincher, Shannon Mullins, David Gray, Buddy and Connie Lollis and Valorie Deel and Kay Zemke who served as District delegates. Highlights of the conference were having Kay Zemke as a new delegate and the commissioning of Jason Zemke who was appointed again to Mount Pisgah. This was a voting year. Earlier this year at a meeting a poll was taken indicating 85% leading toward the Traditional direction and 15% toward the Progressive direction. However, the outcome at the conference was heavily Progressive. The 11 clergy delegates elected to attend the General Conference in May 2020 are all Progressive. The majority of the Laity, however, are Traditional, including David Gray who was elected as a lay delegate to the GC. Annual Conference dates for 2020 have been changed to Thursday-Saturday, June 18-20, in an effort to attract the younger members of laity.

Ministry Dashboard – Buddy Lollis – Buddy thanked everyone who submitted information and thanked Jeremiah for sending the information to everyone. He commended the Senior Ministry's new program of blending the generations through the Technology Class. Five seniors and 7 students met. The students helped the Seniors with technology and the Seniors shared words of wisdom with the students. The Hispanic Ministry provided 150 lunches per day for a total of 6500 over the course of the summer. VBS had over 400 participants this year between children and volunteers. Everyone was invited to the 10:30 worship service on June 30th. He asked for questions, comments, etc. None given.

Other Business: Mark Danzey asked that we pray for Valorie and Larry Deel. They are suffering with the possibility of putting one of their dogs to sleep.

Closing Prayer – Buddy Lollis shared the Values of Mount Pisgah: A People Focused on the Good News; A Place to Call Home; A Partner for Spiritual Growth; A Platform that Launches us to Serve. He closed in prayer.

Dismissed 7:27pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Barnwell