



Franconia UMC Leadership Board Meeting on 11 January 2024

Minutes

Attendees: Pastor Melissa Porter-Miller, Bruce Bartolain, Kathy Henry, Joana Arthur, Patricia O'Donnell, Jessica Posey, Charles Dankwah, Dana Kauffman, Gale Deutsch, Peggy Owusu-Ansah, Dan Dickinson and Jessica Copes (via zoom)

1. **Call to Order:** The first Leadership Board Meeting of the year and the first of its type under the "Simplified Accountable Structure" model assumed by Franconia UMC starting in 2024 was called to order by Chairman Bartolain at 7:30 PM.
2. **Opening Prayer/Spiritual Formation:** Gale Deutsch provided a devotional on change.
3. **Leadership Equipping:** The Board discussed the UMC article, "**7 Trends Impacting Leadership for 2024.**" Board members discussed the relevance and application of the trends to Franconia UMC.
4. **Pastor's Report:** Pastor Melissa provided her summary of Management and Mission Team inputs for Leadership Board interest. A concern over the need for "shed repair" was brought up and briefly discussed during the report.
5. **Management/Mission Team Review - All God's Children (AGC).** AGC Director Copes participated via Zoom, and led a discussion on AGC highlights, challenges, and aspirations for the future. It was noted that AGC was one of only a handful of pre-schools that received a final Covid-related Grant of \$10,000, which helps reduce the deficit under which the AGC is currently operating.
6. **Mission Engagement/Strategic Planning:** Board members discussed 'next steps' in our visioning process. The board also discussed means by which the board can keep the congregation informed of board initiatives.
 - a. ***The board decided on Town Hall meetings as part of the communication regimen, with Town Hall meetings planned for 14 April, and subsequent Town Hall meetings in September and the October Charge Conference.***
7. **Review of Reports:**
 - a. ***The board discussed and approved the previous Church Council Minutes (Nov 23) and Treasurer's Report (Nov 23).***
8. **Action Items:**
 - a. **Trustee Chair Elected:** ***The Board elected Bruce Bartolain as the Trustee Chair.***
 - b. **Board Covenant:** Board members discussed and refined the Board Covenant by which all members will pledge to abide. Due to the refinements proposed, the board held off

signing the covenant until a revised covenant can be presented to the leadership board at the February Leadership Board meeting (February 8th).

- c. **Work Group Assignments:** *The Leadership Board agreed to form focus work groups on areas of church administration:*
 - i. *General administration: Pastor Melissa and Board Chair Bartolain*
 - ii. *Trustees: Members Dankwah, Owusu-Ansah, and Dodds*
 - iii. *Finance: Members Kauffman, Deutsch, and Treasurer Dickinson*
 - iv. *SPPRC: Members Arthur and O'Donnell and Lay Leader Henry*
- d. **Policy Development:** Chairman Bartolain charged the work groups to refine their relevant policies and bring them to the board as soon as possible for approval. Pastor Melissa and Chairman Bartolain took on responsibility for the 'General Administration' policy.
- e. **Church Security:** An unauthorized entry into the church by a potential Koinonia client was brought up and discussed in regard to building security.
- 9. **Communication:** The board discussed the new email groups that will be used within the church, replacing (for the most part), the previous email groups. *The board approved posting summaries of the meeting minutes on the website.*
- 10. **Executive Session:** The board had a short executive session discussion.
- 11. **Closing Prayer:** Chairman Bartolain closed the meeting with a prayer.