

Leadership Board Meeting Minutes – March 20, 2025

Attendees: Dana Kauffman, Pastor Melissa, David Arnold (Belonging to the Body of Christ Team Lead), Charles Dankwah, Matthew Dodd, Leila Hamilton, Virginia Newman, Patricia O'Donnell, Peggy Owusu-Ansah, Sandy Ross, Joana Arthur (via zoom).

1. Opening Prayer/Spiritual Formation

Peggy Owusu-Ansah led the Spiritual Formation based on stained glass representation reflecting Noah and the time to rebuild.

2. Review of Information Reports – (approved as a packet)

February 20, 2025 Leadership Board Minutes and the February Treasurer's Report (presented by Sandy Ross) – Motion to approve by Matthew Dodd and seconded by Virginia Newman. Motion was unanimously approved.

3. Pastor's Report

Highlights included: Franconia First Steps on March 23; Staff appreciation on May 18th; A second listening session possibly on June 1 (approximately 40 attended the first held on March 2nd); A workshop dealing with sustained trauma with Rachel Hamilton tentatively scheduled for April 27; Heather and Jade working to create a place on the website for community resources; Staff evaluation process has been initiated.

Worship attendance doing well with many attending virtually from many areas, not just in immediate area. Worship series planned through November. There was question on zoom attendance between the traditional and contemporary services.

The Financial Management Team has prepared a 'Battle Rhythm' of proposed monthly actions.

Spring cleanup scheduled for Saturday, April 12 from 1-3:30.

AGC Projections for 2025-2026, as of March 13, 2025, was shared showing an increase in enrollment

4. Team Review – Belonging to the Body of Christ

David Arnold provided an update regarding the following:

Worship Planning

Noted that online attendance remains strong. Considering question of how we should reach out to those online. Some who have watched online have come into the church.

Music

David noted that Music ministry is going well, with multiple opportunities for members.

Fellowship

Mentioned ongoing traditional (9 am) and contemporary (11 am) services. Suggested that one service held during the summer should provide additional opportunities for members to connect.

Nurture and Care

David noted that Heather Upp is leading the Homebound Ministry. Stressed the need to make everyone feel welcomed.

5. Update on Draft BMT Policies

Dana noted that, following last month's presentation, Dan Dickenson has provided additional maintenance details for inclusion and work is under way for a table of contents to facilitate use. Target for completion is 2 months.

6. Mission Engagement/Strategic Planning

Year-long Stewardship

Dana reported that the planning group currently includes Peggy, Sandy and himself. Peggy and Sandy are looking for others from the congregation.

Revisiting congregation and community needs

Pastor Melissa reiterated some of what was in her written report regarding the listening session, community resources, dealing with trauma.

Dana shared that there have been and will continue to be various opportunities to participate in vigils and other activities in the Capitol building area to express any concerns over ongoing Administrative actions taken by the administration. He suggested that we might want to consider 'spiritual actions' as a group. Discussion ensued. Dana provided a flyer for a "Hands Off! March on D.C." to be held on Saturday, April 5. It was shared that if members have ideas for other actions to let the Pastor and Dana know.

7. Action Items

Signing of the Leadership Board Covenant completed.

Patricia provided the list of those participating in the annual staff appraisals with the Pastor to be completed by May 1. Patricia also noted the need for volunteers as Nursery backup when only one staff member is available. Volunteers must have taken the safe sanctuary course to assist.

Grant status – Last contact on our facilities grant application, from the UMC District Office, was in February. Still anticipate that awards will be announced by the end of March.

NeighborKind – Ashes for Ash Wednesday was available at a coffee shop. A joint service will be held on April 6 at Franconia District Park. A joint VBS will be held at our church. There are plans for a suicide prevention event in September. A pinwheel garden on March 30 for support of and in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Communications

A reminder that the April Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 15, in the Stage Room.

There was no Closed Session

Breakthrough Prayer

The meeting ended with a group praying of the Breakthrough Prayer.