

La Conner United Methodist Church
Leadership Board Meeting - March 26, 2025

Present: Jean Markus, Alan Mesman, Anita Mesman, Pastor Jacob Kanake, Bill Taylor, Lori Buher, Mary Ann Musgrove, Stuart Macdonald

Jean called the meeting to order at 2:07 pm

Opening Prayer and Scripture by Pastor Jacob. Reading from Titus 1:5-9 on Appointing Elders.

Stuart moved & Mary Ann seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, February 21, 2025 with some clarified language. Minutes approved as amended.

Finance Report – Stuart and Mary Ann

- Presented the spreadsheet which shows month by month income and expenses. All the normal operation expenses are listed (salary, utility, apportionments, etc.) along with the contributions not earmarked for other purposes (plants, memorials, etc.) For the first two months of 2025 we are about \$11,000 below expenses.
- Question on protecting our investments during these very uncertain times. Stuart said the investment accounts are in a highly diversified index fund. We are unlikely to have better luck trying to move into cash and then back into stocks with the right timing. Also we took quite a lot of profit from the Faith Foundation accounts to pay for the windows, repairs and painting. Additional profits are in the bank account to use this year for salary and housing.

Trustees Report - Alan

- Garden: We are close to being finished with the garden and patio area project. The NW corner fence was replaced and includes a gate to access the water valves under the handicap ramp. Still completing: steel railing for short stairs, fence painting, light placement. Another light is needed in the back of the church building. Trees, shrubs, and other plants will be planted this spring.
- Building Policy: Anita said they have had meetings on a church policy using policies from the past, including Bay View, Anacortes & Allen. They will recommend raising most of the fees. Discussion on whether we could charge more for being in La Conner.
- Electrician's bid: Alan was able to increase the capacity of the breaker circuit in the office so the wall heater would work reliably.
- Inventory - Anita and Jean reported that they have been making progress on inventory of church property.

SPRC Report - Bill said there are no new items.

In-reach/Outreach Report - Lori reported on her activities. She is leaving her contact information for the AA people. Her idea is to coordinate with the Memorial Day organization that puts on a service. Suggests our choir sing something at that event which they could also sing at church. Family Promise has forms for us to state our commitment for activities with them. In 2025 we will provide five dinners with people they are helping. Question about whether the church membership is supporting Family Promise efforts but it has been individuals providing the meals. Stuart suggested they be invited to present at our Supper & a Speaker this summer.

Lay Leader Report - Anita report she has updates ready to be added in Servant Keeper for the church directory. Pastor Jacob asked if we could have a new Church Directory next month. Stuart said yes and that he would do the updates.

Leadership Chair Report - Jean

- Easter Flowers: Received \$375 for flowers. Any azaleas and hydrangeas people don't want to take home can be planted in the church garden.

- CPR: There were 32 people signed up for the training.- AED: Woody is looking for a suitable deal on equipment for the church. Pastor's Report - Provided a two-page report on activities.

- Garden/Anniversary Event: Pastor Jacob gave the report which is attached along with his Pastor's report. The date is May 4, combining the opening of the Memorial Park with the celebration of 150 years of ministry in La Conner. Many invitations sent out to pastors, churches, Tribe, and community with a good response so far. Tom Harader will provide cakes and volunteers will provide drinks and setup/cleanup. The name proposed is the "La Conner United Methodist Church Memorial Park." A plaque will be installed with information about the park which Bill and Anita are working on. Lori moved we accept the sub-committee report on the Memorial Garden and 150-year celebration as presented by Pastor. Jean Markus seconded the motion and it passed.

- Personnel Policy: Work is ongoing with drafts in progress.

- Care Team: Continue to work on contacting members, providing prayer blankets, writing notes to members & visitors and other projects.

- Visitors: All visitors receive a follow-up contact. Stuart suggested visitors be asked for their emails and if they wish to receive Flocknotes. Questions on archiving documents on the church website. Stuart will look at ways to do this.

- Worship: Discussion on how we greet each other during church service, noting that not all are comfortable with shaking hands, but need to provide enough time to Pass the Peace. Volunteers are helping with Communion, worship leading, and readings.

- Kids Room: Discussion on cleaning the room and furnishings. Alan suggested buying a rug-cleaning machine that we could use as needed rather than paying for a service to come to do whole rooms more rarely.

- Vanguard Account: The agreement on use of funds from the Church Preservation Fund was received from the previous pastor.

AA Group: Pastor met with the leaders who are committed to keeping doors locked and heat turned down. They have been well-behaved users.

Next meeting will be April 23 at 2 p.m.

Closing Prayer by Pastor Jacob

Adjourned at 3:40

Stuart Macdonald & Mary Ann Musgrove