

La Conner United Methodist Church  
Leadership Board Meeting - February 21, 2025

Those Present: Jean Markus, Alan & Anita Mesman, Pastor Jacob, Tom Harader, Bill Taylor, Lori Buher, Mary Ann Musgrove, in person. Stuart Macdonald (via ZOOM).

Jean called the meeting to order at 3:34 pm

Tom moved & Bill seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, November 5, 2024. Minutes approved as amended.

As past Leadership Chair, Tom expressed his pleasure with all that was accomplished during his term. Mary Ann was glad to serve the church, but is pleased to turn the Lay Leader job over to Anita. Pastor Jacob presented each with a Certificate of Good Work as a thank you.

#### Finance Report

Balance Sheet - Stuart reviewed the bank balances and project earmarks.

Spreadsheet - Mary Ann reviewed a spreadsheet showing actual and projected expenses against income. She will update the sheet each month after expenses are paid and income is deposited in the bank. We are starting out 2025 with a deficit.

Tom asked that we put Sunday School expenses into the budget. He would also like us to buy everything we need and not appeal to members. Then we know what it takes to operate the church.

Pastor Jacob had a new form he wants to for expenses and attendance. Stuart and Mary Ann will review. He also had a new form for Bob & Bill to use when they count the offering. Stuart suggested the Pastor keep that form and can add data after attendance and offering are reported to him following Sunday services.

Trustees - Alan Mesman reported that the Memorial Garden construction is mostly complete. Handrails on stairs are needed and a few other details. Planting will begin upon Stuart's return, although Tom and Brad want to plant a few trees as soon as possible. New motion light is needed at the top of the exterior stairs. Building policy for building use will be reported on at the next meeting. Landscape Maintenance plan is needed. An inventory of all church items is needed along with how to monitor loaned out items. Electric bill is up due to malfunctioning electric heater in the pastor's office. This needs to be replaced by a professional electrician. Tom moved that Trustees get a bid to replace the heater in Pastor's office; Bill seconded the motion and it passed. Railing at the top of the choir stairs needs repair. Scrap lumber from the garden will be used to build a stair from the parking area down to the hose bib on the front of the building.

SPRC - Bill reported on an SPRC meeting where a discussion took place about how to handle ICE if they come to the church.

1. Don't let them in

2. Ask if they are coming for someone and do they have a warrant? If the warrant is a judicial warrant, we have to let them in. An ICE warrant has no value. If Bill is available, he will handle this. If Bill is not there, Anita is next in line followed by Jean.

Outreach & Inreach coordinator Lori has lots of ideas and will begin working on them. She will talk with the people involved in the dinners to plan for those. Lori described a program called the "Friendship Bench" which is beginning in this area.

Lay Leader Anita is working on a directory update. Working on some office files. Sunday School is going well. Will be putting together a budget and working to get more teachers. The Allen Methodist Church loaned us permanently several chairs and a table. Vacation Bible School is being explored to do those together. She & Alan have completed with cleaning and organizing church offices and storage. She has sent out letters to former attendees and contributors to the church urging them to come back and donate.

Jean reported that a refurbished AED costs about \$800 plus maintenance. Woody is still working on a grant. Then there is a lease option, too, for \$1 per day. Woody and Jean will report at the next meeting. Woody will be conducting training at the end of March.

Pastor Jacob reported the healing music program will not continue. Care team has organized and is working diligently. Pastor Jacob authorized to meet with Memorial Garden crew and work on the garden dedication. The 150th anniversary will be combined with this. We are seeing growth in attendance. Requested a church policy on putting food in our refrigerator and borrowing requests. Personnel policy is underway thru SPRC. Simple Governance model gives Pastor a lot of power and Pastor Jacob doesn't want to assume all that power. So he is creating committees to involve more members and make decisions to bring to the Leadership Team.

Pastor Jacob closed the meeting with a prayer at 5:58 pm.

Mary Ann & Stuart

The next meeting was scheduled for March 26th and those following will be on the fourth Wed. every month at 2 pm.