

FUMC Church Council Meeting
Minutes

Monday, Apr 22 6:30 pm

Loveland FUMC is an inclusive and safe community that values unconditional love. We embrace diversity and strive to live in harmony with the teachings of Jesus Christ.
Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

“Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike?
May we not be of one heart though we are not of one opinion?
Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite,
notwithstanding their smaller differences.” John Wesley

We welcomed: Janeen, Rev Lee, Keith, John K, Richard, Kathryn, Andrea, Joy, Judy, Rick, Marlene, Matthew, Barry, Rev Leslie, Alison and guests Penny Kindred and Dale Thurman.
We missed Nicole, Pam, Mary, Susan, Shannon, Betty, Karen, Ellen, and Mike.

Welcome, devotion, opening prayer Judy Stout
Prayer concerns: Bob and Lois Beers' son Doug died. 🙏

Pastor/Staff

Pastors	Rev Leslie & Rev Lee
Financial Secretary	Ellen Shepherd
Church Treasurer	Karen Lumpkin
Music Coordinator	Kathryn Peiffer
Choir Director	Nicole Ceciliani
Youth Ministries Coordinator	Matthew Utley
Children's Ministries Coordinator	Shannon Heusinkveld
Bell Choir Director	Susan Harding
Nursery Coordinator	Alison Williams

Committees

Lay Leader	Janeen Anderson
Staff Parish	John Morgan
Finance Rick Tessean	
Trustees Richard Kittel	
Abiding Memorials	Betty Hill
Stewardship	John Kindred
Missions and Social Concerns	Barry Wehrle
Marketing & Outreach	Andrea Ortega
Membership	Janeen Anderson
Safety and Security	Keith Flaming
UM Foundation	Mike Westbrook
Church Financial Secretary	Ellen Shepherd
*Lay Members to AC	Mary Hannon

At Large Marlene Thurman, Joy Shaw, Pam Erickson

***We need one more delegate to AC. Please let Rev Leslie know if you are interested. It is June 20 – 23 in Casper. It can be attended in person or online.**

New Business:

Matthew Utley will be doing his internship next Sep – May '25, 14 hours/week. He/we would like for him to do it at FUMC. SPRC will determine his responsibilities and will look for funding. Scholarship funds are available after they know how much we can pay. His first draft internship agreement is due by May 1st, but can be revised after that. We will have an email vote after SPRC gives us their recommendation. We are excited for Matthew!!

SPRC's proposal to support Matthew in this internship was approved via email voting (12 'yes' votes, no 'no votes or indicated abstentions.) Finance/SPRC will determine where the \$9/hr will come from. 4/26/24

Other Business

- Review responses from the Lunch and Learn meetings regarding what made the past contemporary service special. Recommend organizing an alternative service small group task force to discuss pros, cons, possibilities, strategies, questions to ask and answers needed, etc.
Rev Leslie will convene a small task force to discuss options for this service. The things most appreciated about this service were: music, informality and intimacy. The service felt like a family, and it was more interactive.
- Mission Insight ~ need 3-4 people to set parameters, John Kindred, Janeen Anderson and Keith Flaming agreed to serve on the MI team with Rev. Leslie. Matthew Utley will potentially serve depending on internship responsibilities and assignments from another class at Iliff.**

- **Readiness 360 ~ need to come up with 2-3 questions for a survey that is designed to determine where/how we need to change**
The MI team will discern the ultimate value of conducting an R360 survey. If it's determined that it will be beneficial, then the next steps and logistics, including the 2-3 questions, will be crafted and a date for survey launch planned.
- **Adam Hamilton & Karen Oliveto webinar**
This webinar was about General Conference and new directions for the UMC. Leslie will send the email to Church Council so we can look at it on our own, and she will include a link for the congregation to view it on this Thursday's eblast. In addition, we may show the presentations by Rev. Adam Hamilton and Bishop Karen Oliveto at an upcoming potluck, for viewing and consideration.

Discussion

- Church building repurposing (We can't keep thinking about the church as it was; what are we about?? We need to realize that we can't meet everyone's needs.)
 1. Keith ~ definition of 'community' Keith asked 'who will come' if we offer free coffee, have a coffee kiosk, rent rooms, etc?? Will it be neighbors, a specific radius or zip code? We need to know who we are serving so we can measure the success of our service to our 'community.' We need to figure out our community, then market it to them.
Our online attendees and Union are part of our community. An 'age group' could be a community.
Here are responses to this discussion:
 - A five-mile radius seems reasonable.
 - We need to tailor programs for segments of our community.
 - Anything to attract youth
 - Families of Truscott/Bill Reed students
 - Lots of new apartments in the community; new people are coming; how can we reach them?
 - We need outreach efforts (like when freshly-baked bread was delivered to Teseans after they visited).
 - Belong Church in Denver (was a new start church) went to neighbors to ask how this church might meet their needs.
 - Andrea noted that there will only be two Foote Lagoon concerts which will free up some marketing budget. We might use those funds to send postcards to neighbors inviting them to events, etc.
 - Who would use these spaces? Weddings, showers, receptions??
 - Desk Chair downtown exists just to rent space, so there is a need.
 - To have a vibrant church, we have to determine needs and address three – five goals.
 - When Rev Lee and Charlie met with Truscott, they were told that this neighborhood is a 'preschool desert.'
 - Janeen noted that the Garfield neighborhood is adjacent to the Truscott neighborhood and has a similar community with the same needs. They should be notified of opportunities in the same way as Truscott.
 - Preschool classes are pretty small, 14 – 16 students; we may have two sessions.
 - What are we doing with Bill Reed? Nothing.
 - Do people know what is going on (that the church is experiencing 'issues'). Yes, they know that attendance is down, finances are down, churches all over are in decline. (BUT there are exceptions.)
 - Does our congregation know that we have to make changes? We can't wish for what we were.
 - Church leadership (not just pastors) have to lead these change efforts.
 - Maybe we can find a successful church to model and provide some hope to counterbalance the depressing nature of 'Autopsy.' FUMC Ft Collins has had lots of growth in recent years.
 - Matthew told us that the biggest challenge to church (not just our church) is reputation—the big picture. The stories getting pushed out on social media are negative. How can we regain trust? FUMC used to have a stellar reputation, but that was prior to COVID and society was in a different place.
 - We need to be in ministry to marginalized groups.
 - We need to hear the message of worthiness—not just telling, but showing.
 - Changes aren't necessarily designed to 'just' bring in members. It can be a more vibrant place even if the Sunday service doesn't grow.
 - How will people see/feel vibrancy if all they do is attend church on Sunday? Responses: people have to do their part—they have to look for change, not wait for it to come to them. It doesn't necessarily matter if they don't see it, we are still being the hands and feet of Christ. It's just a different way of being church.
 - Communication is important, but it is a two-way street—people need to respond, read communications, ask questions.
 - Are we repurposing the building just to get money? NO. We want to be a church that serves the needs of our community. Some of the ways that we do that will, hopefully, also generate income streams. These are not mutually exclusive goals.

- **Example: the third floor could be designed to provide space for counseling marginalized populations OR it could be rented to members of marginalized populations at a reasonable cost.**

2. There are many proposals for ways to repurpose our building. We need to determine priorities.

Discussion noted above, no priorities yet.

- "Autopsy of a Deceased Church" ~ Rev Lee
- **Much of the discussion is included above.**
- **CC thinks we have 'symptoms of sickness.'**
- **Maybe we can find a successful church to model and provide some hope to counterbalance the depressing nature of 'Autopsy.'** FUMC Ft Collins has had lots of growth in recent years. (We will have to decide who will do the research; should be lay leadership; which churches will be contacted, and what questions will be asked?)
- How do we want to engage the congregation with this book? **A potluck!! We will advertise the "FUMC Reads" event, and Rev Lee will organize discussion questions for two – three potlucks. This will be a good way to talk about the plans we have for building use. It will also be a wonderful way to convey to the congregation that church leadership is actively engaging in discernment on ways God is leading FUMC into a vital future.**
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Closing thought from "Autopsy..."

God, reignite the hearts of our church members, including me, to have a passion for the gospel. Teach our church to share the gospel with others. Teach us to live as men and women who are true bearers of the good news of Jesus Christ.

Remind us of our purpose. Convict us of our purpose. Empower us to live our purpose. P. 76

(and our purpose, according to Rev Lee, is to bless and serve the community!)

Next meetings:

May 20, mini retreat 5:30 – 7:30 A light supper will be provided.

July 8 @ 6:30

Sept 9, mini retreat 5:30 – 7:30

Oct 28 @ 6:30

Nov 18 or Dec 1 to approve budget

Church Conference date TBD