

Minutes from **Leadership Board (LB)** meeting on Thursday February 23, 2023

Present: Pastor Jenny Arneson, Jack Malone, Sarah Bolen, Lisa Wink, Patricia Harrington, Terry Twedell, Christy Tubbs, Pat Flaherty, Dee Heller, Judy Krebs, Cheri Hiller *Connie Meyer, *Mike Vavrus, *Mary Mitchell, *Donna Cole (*SPRC members)

Absent: Paul Esser

1. **Welcome** -Jack
2. **SPRC Matter**-Pat F. SPRC joined the meeting to discuss a confidential matter regarding a member requesting to rejoin the church following incarceration that he has completed. Our guidelines show that people on parole must meet certain conditions. He needs to check in when attending, for a six-month period. Because of the time of year, he will attend indoors for three months, and outdoors for three months. Following discussion with his parole officer after this six-month period, he will be allowed back as a member in good standing. Safe sanctuaries guidelines as they pertain to this situation were also discussed.
3. **Consensus to** accept January 2023 minutes as submitted
4. **Devotions** – Pat F. – Pat needs spring to come! Don't we all? Devotion from Isaiah 3: 16-20 Wherever they plant seed, His bounty will rise up.
5. **Spiritual Formation**- Jenny. The SMART goals (2-3) assignment is postponed to march. Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant/Realistic, and Timely/Timebound.
HOMEWORK: bring 2-3 smart goals for March meeting.
6. **Finance/Stewardship:** Sarah, Lisa
 - January – Cash/pledges were at/above anticipated expenses, with a net gain for the month.
 - Foundation accounts were up at the end of January.
 - Cash on hand – 277K with 123K designated.
 - Mortgage was 702K at end of January! Will be under 700K after Feb. payment.
 - We are continuing to pay an extra 3K/month principle on mortgage.
 - In May, the mortgage goes to a variable rate. We can apply to change our mortgage to a fixed rate with \$500 to lock in the rate. End of January the rate was 5.25%, End of February it was 6.0%. The rate floats weekly and recalculates on Fridays. We discussed the pros and cons of locking.

MOTION: Lock in to current rates ASAP to a fixed rate in order to refinance our mortgage for the next five years. Jack will talk to Tom to find out if rates are adjusted and will lock in on Monday following this meeting. Motion Passed.

7. **Trustees:** Judy
 - SPNS contract is due. Currently we charge \$1640/month. Trustees think \$2000/month is a fair rent. They will offer a one-year contract. Trustees will work to get specific/transparent on our costs to show reasons for increases. Trustees will talk to SPNS to explain the increases within this new contract.

8. **SPRC:** Pat –

- Please continue to hold our pastors in your prayers. Brad had surgery 2/23, and Jenny will have surgery March 14.

9. **Other:**

- **Greenspace:** Jenny – the group is seeking a blessing from LB to move forward. They are looking to create a meditative space, play space, and memorial/tribute bricks in a cross shape. Will be done in phases, financed through memorial gifts. We were shown drawings of the plans. These pictures will be enlarged to show the congregation to see if there is support for it. The estimated cost is 34K for the brick area, and trees are \$500 each. LB gave blessing to proceed with giving the above information to the congregation.
- Bashford UMC will be closing June '23. Some members may come here, some to Monona. Watch for visitors!
- Pastoral coverage: Jenny will be out for 6-8 weeks following her March 14 surgery. She will not attend the March or April LB meetings. Lisa and Jack will set agendas and run those meetings.

Closing prayer: Pat F.

- 2020-2024 plan of ministry is: G (Gratitude)
R (Relationships)
O (Our Story)
W (Worship)

Next meeting is – March 23

- **Opening devotions** and closing prayer: Terry
- **Minutes** – Cheri
- **Schedule:** 2023 schedule: March 23, April 27, May 25, July 27, September 28, October 26, November 16
- **Accountable Leadership event on April 22 from 10-3 at SPUMC.** A workshop with Joseph Bishman presenting taking the church to the next level using the ALB model.