

Leadership Council Minutes

8/22/22

Members Present: Rick Allison, Anne Atzinger, Valerie Blessing, Phil Brewer, Phil Howard, Mark Rich, John Thompson, Pastor Jeff Buck and Jeff Wright

1. Phil Howard opened with prayer.
2. Pastor Report
 - Mark Rich asked that Pastor Jeff include Trafalgar attendance in his report as well as Stones Crossing.
3. Finance Update— given by Jeff Wright
 - As one church (both campuses plus daycare) we have a deficit of \$(19,996) which is better than projected.
 - The natural gas budget is much higher than expected and the yearly budget has been met. Jeff Wright is reviewing the monthly statements to see where the increase is coming from.
 - The Church Check-up monthly report of the corrected recommendations was discussed. Most of the deficiencies related to the Daycare have been corrected. Only a few other issues remain.
 - Have received a portion of the reporting of the Day Care to the State of the Grant disbursement. Day care will bring targets for the remainder of the grant's usage to the next Leadership Council meeting.
 - All departments should begin to gather information for the forecast of the 2023 budget.
 - All accounts have been moved to Citizens Bank Sweep Accounts.
 - Jeff Wright and Phil Howard met with an owner of cell towers.
4. UMC Task Force & Plan
 - Have received from Dr. Fulbright a date for the vote. That vote will occur on September 11, 2022 at 6:00P.M.
 - Phil Howard presented the recommendations of Task Force. See attached.
 - Motion was made by Phil Howard and seconded by Valerie Blessing: That the Leadership schedule a vote to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church in accordance with paragraph #2553 of the Book of Discipline as amended at the Special General Conference which was held in St. Louis in February 2019. Motion was passed unanimously.
 - Motion was made by Phil Howard and seconded by Phil Brewer: that upon a 2/3rds vote for disaffiliation of the members in attendance at a scheduled Church Conference on September 11, 2022, we recommend that the Mount Auburn Church join the new denomination of the Global Methodist Church.
 - Motion was made by Phil Howard and seconded by Jeff Wright that: we incorporate as Mt. Auburn Church, Inc. and that we seek legal representation to review and file the paperwork. Motion was passed unanimously.
 - Motion was made by Phil Howard and seconded by Jeff Wright that: Pending disaffiliation approval at the called Church Conference on September 11, 2022, that the Leadership council pay through several sources the estimated \$559,000 plus legal fees

to the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church prior to November 29,2022.
Motion was passed unanimously.

- Discussed methods for making the payments. Have been advised to not sell the lease of the cell tower but possibly monetize the asset. Discussion summed up sources to consider as being donations, loans against cell tower and excess cash on hand. Phil Howard will investigate and report back at the next meeting.
 - The town hall meeting is scheduled for August 28.
 - Touch a truck was a success
5. Discussed the proposed need for a consulting group to help with the transition of church structure, development of a strategic plan and mission statement.
 6. The next meeting will be September 12 at 7:00 P.M.
 7. Closed with a prayer of thanksgiving by Pastor Jeff Buck.

Memorandum To: Mt Auburn UMC Leadership Council

From: Discernment Task Force for Disaffiliation

Date: August 18, 2022 **Revised August 20, 2022**

On August 15, 2022, the Discernment Task Force had the final meeting to consider the merits and implications of Mt Auburn UMC separating from the United Methodist Church. This meeting was the culmination of a series of meetings over the past four months.

We have developed a communication strategy, a time line for communication activities, a series of written communications to all members of the congregation utilizing frequently ask questions(FAQ'S), created a special section on our web site with articles and selected resources, scheduled a series of town halls at each campus, taken a "straw poll" and have shown a series of "information videos" on Sunday mornings.

The following recommendations are now being forwarded to the Leadership Council for your action and implementation.

- **We recommend that the Leadership Council schedule a vote** to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church in accordance with paragraph #2553 of the Book of Discipline as amended at the Special General Conference which was held in St Louis in February 2019.
- Based upon a 2/3rds vote for disaffiliation of the members in attendance at a scheduled Charge Conference prior to October 1, 2022, we recommend that Mt Auburn UMC join the new denomination of the Global Methodist Church.
- We recommend that we incorporate as Mt Auburn Church, Inc and we should call ourselves Mt Auburn Church for all external signage

and communication.

- We recommend that the Leadership Council utilize several sources of funds to make the \$599,000 disaffiliation payment to the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church, prior to November 29, 2022

Respectively submitted by Discernment Task Force

Mark Appleton

Phil Howard

Susan Porter

Valerie Blessing

Jerry McRoberts

John Thompson

Phil Brewer

Bill Moyer

Mike Womack

Jeff Buck

Marge Patton

Jeff Wright

Kim Peters