

## Leadership Council Minutes

8/28/23

Members Present: Mike Alexa, Rick Allison, Anne Atzinger, Valerie Blessing, Phil Brewer, Jeff Buck, Kathy Heistand, Phil Howard, Audrey Miller, John Thompson (by zoom), Melissa Truelove, Mark Weatherman, Jeff Wright, Mike Womack

Special Guests from the Trafalgar Campus: Marilyn Kidwell and Paul Sturgell

1. Mike Womack opened the meeting with prayer.
2. GMC Update
  - Things are going well but there is much work to be done when beginning a new church.
  - The GMC is rapidly growing and there are currently 210 churches in our annual conference.
3. Pastor's Report
  - The new member class was well attended with 5 people in attendance, including one young couple.
  - Pastor Jeff is Dean of the Cabinet for the GMC and covers churches over 4 states.
4. Trafalgar Update
  - Pastor Gordon Esterline is no longer employed by Mount Auburn Church.
  - Pastor Jeff presented the *Next Steps Document* prepared by John Thompson outlining a way forward. This document will be taken back to the TLC and discussed further.
  - Communication needs improved between the two campuses causing much frustration.
  - Trafalgar's goal is to eventually be completely independent. In the meantime, they need stability and a part-time pastor who cares well for the church.
5. Business Meeting/Charge Conference
  - The GMC requires a once-a-year business meeting. Every active member is allowed to vote at business meetings.
  - The business meeting could be combined with a Charge Conference. Only Leadership Council Members and retired pastors who have declared Mount Auburn their home church can vote at a charge conference, but anyone is welcome to attend.
  - Pastor Jeff suggested October 29 for our business meeting, but no decision was made.

## 6. Mizo Methodist Church Update

- The Mizo congregation currently meets at Greenwood UMC and a portion of the people want to break away and become part of the Global Methodist Church but need a space to meet. The congregation will be approximately 70-80 people and is expected to grow quickly as other groups in the area may join.
- The Pastor and leadership are taking the steps to move forward with becoming a GMC and are now a legal entity, are incorporated as Mizo Methodist Church Inc., have a federal tax ID number, have applied for liability insurance and are working on a bank account.
- Mike Womack presented the highlights of the primary terms agreement for a trial period through December 31, 2023.
- The Mizo congregation will have use of The Courts, Youth Rooms, Pavilion, and Playground from 12:30-4:30 pm on Sunday afternoons. All other spaces will need to be booked like any other group or ministry. The pastor will need an office space, storage space and a mailbox.
- The rent will be \$0 for September and \$500 a month for October, November and December. The mission team may supplement the pastor's salary in the beginning.
- The suggestion was made to have a lawyer review the contract.
- Jeff Wright made a motion to approve the Mizo Church and allow them to use our facility under the terms discussed for a trial period. Audrey Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor except for one abstained vote.

## 7. Update on 3 Initiatives from Consultation

- The new sound board is currently being installed and the computer/IT work is complete.
- The communication plan designed by Clara Sjoquist is moving forward.
- A new database is being researched by Kathy Heistand and Cindy Rinehuls.
- The new staff job descriptions will be explained and laid out the first week of September.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> service needs improvement and is being evaluated. Andrew Hamilton and team are looking at all aspects of the service.
- A question was raised about attendance trends and why it's not discussed at Leadership Council meetings anymore. Pastor Jeff will go back to including it in his pastor's report.

## 8. Convening Conference Registration

- The Convening Conference is in Peoria, Illinois on October 27-28.
- All council members are encouraged to attend, and Mike Womack included the registration link on the agenda.

## 9. Sewer Update (by Mike Alexa)

- We are waiting to hear back from an outside civil engineering firm. The entire length of the old sewer line is intact, but one in-line manhole cover/cleanout will need to be replaced. Bargersville has granted permission to move to Greenwood, but Greenwood will require the entire line to be jetted before signing off on the project. The old line will need reattached where it is capped at the pump station and the current connection behind Goodwill will need severed and capped per Bargersville. The estimated cost for repair is \$15-25K, but the pumps and lift station may be able to be sold.
- Phil Howard made a motion to approve the sewer scope of work laid out by Mike Alexa up to a cost of \$25,000. Anne Atzinger seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

#### 10. Financial Reports (July)

- The Stones Crossing Campus had a deficit of \$(1,771.74) for the month and a net profit of \$82,703.45 year-to-date.
- The Daycare had a deficit of \$(3,280.89) for the month and a net profit of \$57,162.17 year-to-date.
- The Trafalgar Campus had a net profit of \$9,392.14 for the month and a net profit of \$4,826.36 year-to-date.
- The daycare grant has been satisfied and the grant account has been closed.
- Mike Alexa noted that there are some pass through items that affect the budget and will cause the surplus at the Stones Crossing Campus to go down.
- The 2024 budget should be ready for review by the Leadership Council in October.

#### 11. Leadership Council Members for 2024

- The nominations committee will begin meeting in September to find members for those that are rolling off the council.
- Mike Womack suggested Denny Blessing as the new Leadership Council Chair and Denny is willing to take the position.

#### 12. Pastor Jeff closed the meeting in prayer.