

Meeting Minutes
CFUMC Leadership Board
March 11, 2025 @ 6:30

Our Mission: Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision: Ordinary people learning to love like Jesus.

Our Core Values: Connect, Equip, Commit.

In Attendance

- Present: Dawn Goellner, Joy Barret, Mike Vanderspool, Todd Hubbard, Heather Hay, Mary Hoey, Nolan Peterson, Rick Fitzgerald and Kasie Cousino
- Via Zoom: Ray Stankiewicz and Jeff Melvin
- Absent:
- Guest(s): Jody Croskey and Susan Adam-Rita

Opening Prayer and Spiritual Formation

- Mary offered the opening prayer then shared some thoughts from her own life and from scripture on praying intentionally.
- Some of her insights on how to pray (especially with others) include:
 - Eliminate the distractions
 - Don't be angry, pray in love
 - Listen, then talk
 - Focus, don't ramble
 - Seek mentors to help you develop your prayer skills

Leadership Development

- Joy walked us through an overview of 2024 and 2025 church trends as defined by Carey Nieuwhof. These may be found in the LB shared drive for the March 2025 board meeting folder, or via this link [Church Trends](#)
- We agreed these resources (and the MissionInsite work below) would be good items to review more fully during the months ahead, or during our annual retreat.

Review of New People

- Joy shared that 53 people have been invited to the next new member class which will be held from 9:30 - noon on Saturday April 5th. Of these 53, 23 are "long-termers" and 30 are relatively new.
- Joy also shared some local (12 mile radius around Chelsea) demographic information prepared for the Michigan Annual Conference of the UMC. These are found in the Leadership Board folder, or via this link [MissionInsite](#). We are not clear on the methodology, but information topics include:
 - Life Concerns
 - Reasons for Non-Participation in a Religious Community
 - Reasons to Consider Non-Participation in a Religious Community
 - Program or Ministry Preferences

- Information Sources and Social Media Preferences

Packet and Consent Calendar Items

- The Consolidated Report and Minutes from February were unanimously approved.

Strategic and Generative Items

- Guiding Principles
 - Kasie incorporated prior comments and cleaned-up the prior draft. The biggest changes were made to the Appendices in which Kasie tried to capture the details of “how we work.” The Guiding Principles document and related materials may be found on the Leadership Board shared drive or via this link [Guiding Principles](#)
 - *Action* - Board members are asked to review the underlying church policies found on the shared drive..
- Town Hall preparations
 - Joy led us in a planning discussion for our Town Hall meeting to be held Thursday March 20th from 6:30 - 8:00. We agreed to open with a large group session, then split into small group sessions led by a Leadership Board member.
- Leadership Board retreat meeting date
 - Mike led a discussion of potential retreat dates and we landed on Tuesday August 5th as our tentative day. The retreat will take most of the day. Mike will confirm with Melanie Carey and Jeff Melvin (who had to leave the meeting).

Goal Review and Accountability (guests excused from meeting)

- Mike led us in a review of our previously defined goals:
 - **Guiding Principles in place by May meeting** - this work is going very well and is on-track.
 - **Leadership Board components in place and functioning by the month following the retreat** - we are living into this goal well and believe we are on-track.
 - **Create/embrace a culture of hospitality** - we will discuss this during the March 20th Town Hall.

Communication

- Rick will summarize for the Pathfinder.
- *Action* - He also asked that everyone submit a picture of themselves (if he did not already take one of you).

Closing Prayer

- Joy offered the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Recorded by Todd Hubbard