

Meeting Minutes CFUMC Leadership Board

April 8, 2025

Meeting convened at 6:30 p.m.

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.

Attendance

- Present: Dawn Goellner, Joy Barret, Mike Vanderspool, Todd Hubbard, Heather Hay, Mary Hoey, Nolan Peterson, Rick Fitzgerald, Kasie Cousino.
- Via Zoom: Ray Stankiewicz, Jeff Melvin.
- Absent: None.
- Guests: Susan Adam-Rita, Jody Croskey.

Opening prayer and spiritual formation

• Heather Hay opened the meeting with prayer and led a discussion on different forms of prayer. Some main takeaways: Anything can be a form of prayer. Think of prayer as a phone connection with God that you never hang up. Heather shared a handout with different approaches to prayer that included a wide variety of ways to pray ranging from walking in nature and singing to creating artwork and meditation.

Leadership development

• Mary Hoey led a discussion on various ways to welcome new people to the life of the church and how to move them into deeper engagement. Mary began the discussion by sharing how she was – or was not in some cases – welcomed to Chelsea First when she first started to attend. She shared research and an outline of good hospitality practices through a handout that included ideas on how to foster a sense of community, how a church can improve hospitality and the importance of offering training to church members on how to be more hospitable.

Review of new people

• Senior Pastor Joy Barrett shared that 23 people attended a recent information session for newcomers to the church, which is considered an excellent turnout. Four church leaders also attended. Those ready to pursue church membership will be received April 27.

Joy also noted that attendance in worship April 6 was strong with 173 people attending the 9 a.m. service with another 30 online. The 11 a.m. service was attended by 70 people with another 6-8 attending online.

Goals review and accountability

• Joy reported solid progress on the initial Leadership Board stated goals for the year. Work is progressing on the guiding principles for the church, which are on target to be finalized in May. Other “year one” work for the Leadership Board is on track to be fully implemented by September, following a Leadership Board planning retreat in August. And, the work to re-energize the culture of hospitality at the church is moving ahead with the goal of being operational by September.

Packet and consent calendar items

- The consolidated financial report, minutes from the March meeting and guidelines for responding to questions posed to the Leadership Board were approved as presented.

Strategic and generative Items

• **Guiding principles:** Kasie Cousino reported that she has largely completed a revised draft of the guiding principles and is now working on the appendices related to specific working teams. Any further suggested edits should be added to the Google doc by April 26 ahead of the May 13 Leadership Board meeting where the guiding principles will be presented for consideration.

• **March 20 town hall review:** Todd Hubbard shared his analysis of the feedback from the March 20 town hall meeting. He said the hospitality of the church, the open-mindedness of church members, the music program, worship services, mission opportunities and the focus on social justice all were cited repeatedly as positive aspects of the church. Among suggestions for the church to focus on in the coming year were making community connections, providing leadership opportunities, examining how we “do” church and focusing on young families.

• **Future town hall dates:** Mike Vanderspool reported that two additional town hall dates have been selected. They are Aug. 17, following the one summer worship service with an expected start time of 11:30 a.m.; Oct. 26, with a late afternoon or early evening start time.

Communication

- Rick will draft a meeting news summary for the Pathfinder.
- Minutes will be posted on the church website once approved.
- Agenda is posted on the church website preceding each meeting.

Closing Prayer

- Mike Vanderspool shared the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Recorded by Rick Fitzgerald