

Action Items prior to February Meeting

Joy

Prepare and distribute New People report
Clean up and distribute minutes
Create Shared Google Drive to hold the documents and information for the Leadership Board
Mail the thank you cards we signed to Misty and Teresa
Bring summary of the Denominational Year-End Report: membership, attendance, finances
Look at the church calendar for date options for the first Town Hall session; send out dates to LB members; we want to decide the date prior to our February meeting
Work with Liza Gray-Jarvis to include links to PDF's of LB meeting agenda and minutes in the Pathfinder

Ray

Make a plan for how to organize the Shared Google Drive for easy, logical access to documents

Rick

Write communication about our Jan 14 meeting for Pathfinder
Design template for bios and photos of LB members, so the congregation can "get to know us"

All

Bring to the February meeting the notated Dec. 2024 Financial Report from Kasie
Review the Guiding Principles first draft

Leadership Board

Chelsea First United Methodist Church

January 14, 2025, 6:30-8:20 pm meeting minutes

Present: Mike Vanderspool (chairperson), Kasie Cousino, Rick Fitzgerald, Dawn Goellner, Heather Hay, Mary Hoey, Todd Hubbard, Jeff Melvin, Nolan Peterson, Ray Stankiewicz, Joy Barrett. A delicious meal provided by Teresa Steklac and Misty Noble; thank you!

Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Mike called the meeting to order; Dawn offered a prayer for the meal and the meeting.

Spiritual Formation Time

Dawn led the group reflecting on the question: How to see God in difficult times? Several members shared personal stories about the hardest time they have ever experienced in their life. This was a powerful time of sharing and connecting.

Wisdom from Dawn: remember, it's not personal; find some small bit of joy; exercise; do something to get out of circular thinking - like read aloud; rant, rage, cry - express the emotions; Psalm 91 is a good help; stay connected with others, let people be present with you, ask for help; do something to help someone else, be present for them.

(suggestion from the group re: what to document from this time in the minutes: three five points of learning, insight, etc. but do not include items of personal sharing)

Leadership Development

Kasie walked board members through how to read and understand the church monthly Finance Report. She provided annotated copies of the report, with helpful comments (please see handout for the information). There was not time to finish the presentation, so it will continue in February. Members: please bring the copies of the December Financial report with Kasie's notations to the February meeting.

Review New People

Joy was not able to create the *review of new people* report for tonight's meeting; she will do that and upload it in the shared documents folders. Also will bring to February meeting a summary of the denominational "Year-End" report which has information about membership, changes in membership; participation, engagement, attendance; and finances.

Joy noted a recent situation when a household of first time guests went to Grams Hall for social time and they were standing alone. We do so many things well, but extending consistent, radical hospitality is a growing edge for us.

Goal Review and Accountability

Given that this is the inaugural Leadership Board meeting (the LB "equipping session" with the consultant and coach was just three days prior), and that the agenda today is full, there is no action with this item. In February there will be a presentation about the 2024 work of the Administrative Council and the "Forge the Path Team" about strategic work, objectives, and goal-setting. That work was not brought to completion, but a recap will be helpful to the LB.

Packet and Consent Calendar Items

Mike proposes the LB use Google Drive for shared documents. This will include, but not be limited to: agenda; items for the Consent Calendar; materials to be discussed and acted upon, etc. The agenda will always have at the top the statements of Our Mission, Our Vision, Our Core Values

Joy will set up the shared drive; Ray will help organize it

Deadline Agreement: all items to be considered at the monthly meeting must be available in the Shared Drive by 8 pm on the Thursday prior to the monthly meeting.

Strategic and Generative Items

Recording Secretary

For the first three or four months, we will try taking minutes internally; we will revisit this after get a sense of how these meetings will flow, so that no member is diminished in their capacity to fully participate due to taking the minutes. We will also collectively make decisions about how much info to include. Kasie, Todd, Rick, and Joy indicated their willingness to take a turn with the minutes.

We need to decide how to make the agenda available to the congregation, since LB meetings are open meetings, except for needed Executive Sessions. Suggestion: once agenda is in the shared drive, we can create a link to the PDF of the agenda and have Liza include it in the Pathfinder the week prior to the LB meeting. The minutes (redacted as needed re: Executive Session items) could also be available in this fashion.

Guiding Principles

Kasie and Rick shared a document for us to review and revisit at the February meeting, a “first draft” of the Guiding Principles document for Chelsea First UMC.

Notes: Items highlighted in Yellow are the things that are important to discuss!

Churches do this differently; Where to be specific, where to be more general?

Items highlighted in Blue represent need for external weigh-in – folks beyond the LB. Communication is very important.

Questions: Investment policy (old); Gadbery Fund

Monthly meetings: second Tuesday to each month, 6:30–8 pm

We will not plan for monthly meals at this time; members are welcome to bring their meal and eat during the meeting.

Town Halls – when to schedule

Sunday’s? – could we have service, structuring the entire Sunday morning schedule to gather as many people as possible? We would need “weigh in” from stakeholders about this: worship (impact on all three communities); education with children and youth; music rehearsals; etc.

What if we try three different days and times?

Remember – Town Halls are not just a time to push out information; it is also a time to receive input, to hear from the wisdom of our congregation

Our first town hall will be in March (decided after much conversation)

Possible topics:

Share the Guiding Principles and the Goals for the year

Who is charge and for what are they responsible?

Year end report – finances, number of new members

Invite input: what new thing is God calling us to in 2025?

Joy – check church calendar for date options in March; consider weekday and weekend opportunities; avoid the last week of March as it is Spring break for the Chelsea Schools. Date will be decided by email before the Feb. meeting

Whenever held, child care must be provided

suggest Early August for the strategic planning retreat – Date TBD

Executive Session matter **Director of Discipleship** – Mike shared the decision of the Administrative Council to create a new full time staff position titled Director of

Discipleship; this position is to be filled by June 1, 2025. The current full time positions of Director of Children's Ministry and Director of Youth Ministry will cease to exist in their current form as of June 1, 2025. Joy is working with the Personnel Standing Team to move forward with this and the messaging about the changes to the congregation.

Communication

Rick will write the article for the Pathfinder published the week of January 24. Items to include: the LB is developing the guiding principles and will be in conversation with relevant leaders and stakeholders; we are working to identify the date for the first Town Hall

Rick also suggests we create a resource with info about the LB members: a brief bio and photos of each member; Rick will create a template for this.

This week, January 17 edition of Pathfinder, an article written by Tammy Melvin will be in the Pathfinder about the equipping session and the members of the LB.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 with the gift of a cross for each member and a prayer.