

Meeting Minutes

CFUMC Leadership Board

06/10/2025

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, Ray Stankiewicz, Kasie Cousino, Mike Vanderspool, Rick Fitzgerald, Nolan Peterson, Joy Barret, Jeff Melvin, Todd Hubbard, Mary Hoey
- Absent: Heather Hay
- Guests: Maurine Nelson, Kate Buehler, Susan Adams-Rita (staff)

Opening Prayer and Spiritual Formation: How to focus during prayer time by Ray

- Began the meeting with a thoughtful prayer
- Spoke about what prayer means as a practice
- Throughout his presentation, spoke personally and thoughtfully about how he operated and what things meant to him
- Key elements:
 - Strive to be deliberate, intentional and thoughtful about ourselves and our relationship with God
 - Think about and embrace different settings; Is the prayer in a group context, is the prayer a personal one, is the prayer for others
 - Things that make prayer meaningful can be
 - Stopping and focusing
 - The words
 - Being vulnerable
 - Saying it out loud
 - Being curious about a conversation
 - Always questions to consider

Leadership Development: Gen Z, spiritual but not religious by Nolan Peterson

- Presented on attitudes of Gen Z, summarized by the title in that they are spiritual but not religious
- Opportunity for learning by all of us to understand those attitudes to be able to think about how it would affect us
- Quoted various sources which enhanced the credibility and thought-provoking nature of the presentation
- Insights shared
 - Gen Z shaped by technology but the preferred communication method is still in person
 - Stat: 34% of Gen Z were religiously unaffiliated in 2022, the largest of any generation
 - Growing gender divide with young men turning to church, particularly culturally conservative evangelical or non-denominational, while young women are leaving
 - LGBTQ inference: if 24% of Gen Z identify as LGBTQ, what does that mean for church
- Calls to Action
 - “Offer events and activities outside of the church doors”
 - “Planning needs to happen now or we will miss the train”

Review of New People by Joy Barrett

- Reviewed report of new people and brought attention to those names and possible connections

Goal Review and Accountability

- Accomplished: Have hired and onboarded Director of Lifelong Faith Formation by 6/1
 - Announced on Website
 - Congregation-wide email will be sent with Susan’s statement of excitement at beginning this journey
- Accomplished: Guiding principles in place by May meeting
- Fully functioning leadership board in place by September
 - 2025 goals set, agreed upon and being reviewed
 - Three town hall meetings set or accomplished for 2025
 - Annual retreat accomplished or scheduled
 - Support for and execution with standing teams in place
- Hospitality Team formed and trained by 9/1; invitations to join the team are going out by end of week (6/13); Heather and Dawn will be joining the team from the leadership board

Packet and Consent Calendar Items

- Included May minutes, April Finance report dated 4/30/2025
- No comments or questions so considered accepted

Strategic and Generative Items

- Gen Z Discussion: What did the presentation mean to each of us, what surprised us and what did we learn? Almost everyone agreed this was brand new information. As we

discussed what it meant to us as church strategic leaders, we did hash through the idea of communicating differently with this generation vs. communicating differently with a specific age group. Nolan made the very compelling argument that expecting historical patterns such as individuals to return to church upon having children would be foolish. We need to accept and be cognizant of the realities and then embrace the idea of doing things differently

- Pastor Transition Discussion: As this becomes a regular item, Mike proposed the idea of a separate task force to fully examine this including researching the idea of an interim pastor, ensuring the bishop has the full picture of our church currently and our future needs and wants, evaluating the monetary aspect. We decided to go forward with this idea. One thing that was clear from the discussions was that the leadership board wants very much to remain informed and be the decision maker. The boundaries of the task force would be the discussion and researching to then present ideas or possible recommendations to the leadership board. Follow up for launching this will be handled by the chair, Mike Vanderspool.
- Preparations for August 5 planning retreat were shared by Mike: Will be 9 am – 4 pm; place to be determined; Melanie Carey will be attending; The plan is to share the agenda and any pre-retreat homework in advance to allow for preparation. Leadership board members are asked to contribute regarding the logistics and Mike will follow-up with an email to all board members.
- Input for Nominations and Leadership Development Team: Three board members will roll off at the end of the year; What are their skill sets that we want to replace? What do we need? Any thoughts were to be sent to Mike to collate and pass along to Nominations and Leadership Development Team

Communication

- Rick Fitzgerald took responsibility for writing and putting synopsis in Pathfinder
- Items to include:
 - Town Hall date of August 17th
 - Update on goal achievement
 - Synopsis of Gen Z attitudes and the possible ramifications

Closing Prayer offered by Dawn Goellner