

Tuesday, March 10, 2026 Leadership Board Minutes

Attendees: Nolan Peterson, David Shaw, Jeff Melvin, Heather Hay, Andrea Alford, Todd Hubbard, Kasie Cousino, Joy Barrett and Curt Collins. Rick Fitzgerald is travelling and could not participate.

Meeting started at 6:30.

Opening prayer offered by Heather Hay.

Spiritual Formation discussion led by Heather - "Finding the divine in unexpected places"

- Heather shared thoughts and scripture related to four places where she finds the divine - nature, laughter, children and everyday events.

Leadership Development discussion led by Andrea - "History of social justice and the UMC"

- Andrea reviewed the difference between Equity and Equality, Jesus' call to social justice principles, and many important UMC social justice milestones between 1730 and 2026.
- For more information go to www.umc.org

Goals (Board Accountability)

- Hospitality team
 - Heather updated us on planning for three focus groups to be held in April to help us better understand how our current hospitality is perceived. These focus groups are based on age/newcomer cohorts.
- Understanding Demographics
 - Kasie updated us on information gathering to better understand our community demographics and needs.
- Life Long Faith Formation
 - Joy updated us that she continues to work with Susan Adam-Rita on specific items and timelines, and hopes to review the status more fully with the Leadership Board in April.

Engagement (Pastoral Accountability)

- Joy shared some thoughts and led a discussion regarding how to measure and track Relationship and People Connections activity. Ideas include:
 - Gift inventory and self reporting of internal and external areas of service.
 - A monthly question to the congregation (e.g., What third spaces do you inhabit? How many interactions did you have with your neighbors this past month? How many new people did you meet and learn the names of?)
 - Developing a bench of future leaders.
 - In the end we thought we should probably ask the monthly questions, see what responses we get, keep the rollout simple, just start a dialogue, and don't worry too much about quantifying the results initially.
 - We will target a rollout sometime after Easter.

Packet and consent calendar items reviewed and passed unanimously.

Strategic and Generative Items

- Review of February 22nd Town Hall
 - Excellent turnout; 71 people attended.
 - Positive feedback from attendees.
 - Rob's many contributions appreciated.
 - Appreciative of the gift of leadtime Joy has provided.
 - In summary - attendees were sad but happy for Joy and hopeful for the future and what will come.
- 2026 Trends
 - Agreed to defer this lengthy discussion until after Easter.
- Strategy Planning Session for 2026
 - Proposed all-day session to be held at our church on August 4th.

Nuts and Bolts

- Church elevator repair status - parts on order/back order.
- Annual Conference - will be held in Traverse City on May 29-31. Attending lay members from Chelsea First are Andrea Alford, Jeff Melvin, Nolan Peterson, and Annette Weeks. Additional attendees include Edie Wiarda (who is a member of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry) and our clergy (both active and retired).
- Trek for Vets Community Event - Chelsea First is a sponsor of this event to be held on Friday, May 22nd. It includes a police escort march down M-52, and dinner at the fire station.

Communication - Todd to summarize for Path Finder.

Closing Prayer offered by Andrea.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02; minutes recorded by Todd.