

Administrative Board Meeting

January 22, 2023

Ron Lipe called the meeting to order at 6:30.

Ron introduced himself and apologized for the short novel of introduction he had in the Materials sent out by Beverly. He asked those new to the board to introduce themselves and their new position.

Julie Smith our new lay leader gave the devotion on Peace by Rick Warren. God is with us through all things even the tough spots and then into eternity. She added that she was told that you should never put a period when you can put a comma. This is not the end but a new beginning.

Ron Lipe asked for a motion to approve the minutes as posted if there are not corrections or additions. Motion made by J.D. Peeples to accept and seconded by Matt Morgan. Minutes accepted as posted.

Bill Daniels – SPRC report - Bill explained what the SPRC was to those who were new to the board and may not familiar- Tondala Hayward has made an unusual midterm reassignment to the Wesley Foundation at the University of Memphis.

The SPRC had made their official interviews with the pastors for their Pastoral Consultations that was filed with the District Superintendents office stating that their desire and ours was for them to stay. However Tondala had already accepted her new position.

Jenny Garrett will move from full time to a part time position as our Youth Director. She will continue to be a part of their activities on a regular basis. Should she have to adjust her schedule to attend weekend and other special events she will be compensated with accumulated comp time.

SPRC will be ready to act upon any clergy decisions and any other staffing adjustments.

John Sammons – Numbers available in church office from the close of Dec. New numbers had not yet been run at the time of this meeting.

Bob Archer – Financial Reports – Interim Financial officer, Loren Key has checked and verified all of accounts and brought all our accounts information up to date.

The end of the year we had a little bit of a boost of funds. General fund needs to be watched. We have to be watchful that when a bill comes due we need to be able to adjust. Please encourage all to pay their pledges. We want to praise our staff for holding down expenses. We all need to keep up to date on pledges. Don Gary, we thank you for your help in handing over the Finance Committee.

J.D. Peebles ask about our apportionments? Due to shortages in Dec. we were unable to meet payroll and pay our apportionments. Blaine Tooley said that if the disaffiliation should take place that right now it looked like it would cost a little over \$800,000. That we were to hold up and put aside the apportionment monies we owed and add that to the total disaffiliation fee.

J.D. Peebles made a motion to set aside monies in an escrow Account for the funds owed in December and the months to come. \$17,750 a month put aside to pay when the time came should we disaffiliate. We were told to hold on paying the apportionment until after the vote. Motion was seconded by Amy Bradham.

Reworded motion to make all conference askings on all unpaid 2022 askings plus our ongoing askings to be set aside to a tier 2 payment to be held after all tier 1 payments have been made. Again seconded by Amy Bradham . We had a little extra discussion and a vote was taken to hold funds to be available at such time the conference requires us to pay.

It was an executive decision not to pay the apportionments because we were short and needed to be able pay staff and other ongoing expenses.

Matt Morgan – Trustees – The Boy Scouts of America have moved their charter to the VFW but will be physically using our building. This is not going to look any different than it has in the past.

Pipes burst in the Narthex and we were so fortunate that it happened when we were here and we are now all dried up and back into the sanctuary.

Blaine Tooley- Voting will take place being above board and unquestionable.

Timeline Dec. 4 Administrative board voted to hold the vote. For the next two and half weeks we worked on collecting all the paper work. The goal of the vote is that it be done so there will be no question as to its validity. Dec.21 paperwork was turned in which was reviewed and approved on January 13. We contacted D.S. David Weatherly on the 14th. We had to make sure our Administrative Board Chair and our head of Trustees were going to be available.

Ballots will be a signature vote with only a few people seeing them. They will then be sent to Nashville to be locked up and not to be seen. Labels will be on the outside of the ballot and you will sign on the inside. We should have the result of the vote by that afternoon.

Pastors Report

Rev. Dr. Deborah Suddarth

David Jackson made a public apology for himself and the congregation that this was not what she signed up for.

Then he asked about three resolutions that were set at Lake Junaluska which Rev. Suddarth was not fully aware and said she would investigate and get back to the board with an answer. She said that this was on a jurisdictional conference decision that her concentration had been on what was going on in our congregation.

Rev. Suddarth shall remain with the UMC as she had indicated in a video to the congregation earlier. She had let the staff know that they would be able to talk about what they were doing but if any questions of her decision came up that she would be glad to address those questions herself.

A conference call was connected to Rev. Eddie Bromley who found out he had COVID after church today and was not able to be here in person. He wanted to let the board know in his own words that after much consideration he and Stacy had made the decision that it would be best for their family that he would surrender his credentials to the United Methodist Church. He would turn them in at the conference at the end of May first of June.

Rev. Suddarth said that I will be here to lead you should we stay UMC and Eddie will be here to be able to lead should the decision be to disaffiliate. We wanted the church to know what was taking place and have a peace that there would be leadership here to get them through it.

There will be a Strategic Transition team to start thinking what is to happen moving forward whatever the results maybe. A Strategic team of 6 persons, who were invited to be on this team with the leadership of Melanie Duncan, will be thinking of things in 6 or 7 different areas. They will not be making decisions but Calling on people that will be able help us to continue moving forward.

We are here to be faithful in whatever direction we shall go, I am here for all of us.

Board stood in honor of Rev. Suddarth.

Julie Smith closed meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted

Jeffrelyn Arterburn

Recording Secretary