

Collierville United Methodist Church
Administrative Board Meeting
January 28, 2024

Dave Herlong opened meeting at 6:30

Devotion by Julie Smith on praying for our leaders and our church. We have done a great of coming together. Keep on praying!

Vision recited

Minutes accepted by acclamation

Dave Herlong and Dr. Suddarth asked everyone to read and initial their covenant statement

Copy of Joey's report on our Spiritual gifts Book

Hello friends! If you ordered the spiritual disciplines handbook, yours probably has arrived. If you ordered with the church, that box is now in my office. I will have them available on Wednesday night and Sunday morning, or you can drop by the office and pick yours up.

Here are my notes from our meeting the other night:

Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: pp.10-25

Starting with page ten, the question that jumps off the page immediately is, "Does God's presence in me really change anything?" To be in the presence of the divine is to be transformed. Countless examples of scripture show us that the authors recorded those instances to demonstrate the radical change that God brings about in our lives.

The author of this book is trying to get us to understand that we are trying to learn the unforced rhythms of grace, and quotes that from Matthew 11 in the Message. When we try to force a spiritual transformation, the resulting frustration can be counterproductive.

We must instead ask what we want Jesus to do for us. Over and over Jesus asks that very question. His most powerful encounters are with people who want something different. On those occasions, we see Jesus anticipate the true nature of people's desire and we see him over a spiritual practice that helps them make space for God in their lives.

Spiritual disciplines are less about doing something to make a change in our lives and more about carving out time in space for God to transform us from within. Spiritual disciplines allow us to set aside the junk that gets in the way of God's transforming power.

Just as individuals can have spiritual gifts, churches and other groups of people can have a spiritual giftedness. By the same token, churches can have spiritual disciplines that are more helpful than others.

Richard Foster divides the disciplines into inward outward incorporate. Inward disciplines or practiced in the privacy of our intimate walk with Jesus. Outward disciplines affect how we interface with the world. And corporate disciplines are practiced with others. His protege, Dallas Willard, talked about disciplines of engagement and disciplines of abstinence.

Finding our true desire can be accomplished using the acrostic on page 22. Once you know what your desire is, the discipline that will help you to walk the path towards achieving it will become clear.

The book is not designed to be read from cover to cover. The Spiritual Disciplines Handbook is more like a compass that shows you the way.

Be sure to utilize the instructions on pages 23, 24, and 25 to discover how your day can begin with a focus and emphasis on your newest spiritual discipline.

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If you have questions, please feel free to reach out by replying to this email. If I can't help, I will be sure to help you find someone who can.

Grace and peace,

Joey

Finance Report from Cary Pappas

Budget Variance

- \$59k worse than plan, total revenue vs expenses

Revenue Variance

- Tithe was \$66k lower than our hopes
- Building rental revenue was \$27k less due to late start of SoS rental

Controllable Expense Variations

- Overall staff expense \$26k better than plan revised 2023 plan
- Staff expense would have been even better, but we spent \$21k on extra finance staffing

Bridge the gap

1. Maintain current staff levels for extended period (length TBD)
2. Double down on expense controls especially on low tithe months
3. Cut areas with negative budget variances by 15% = \$15k
4. Full year building rental = \$90k or \$7500 per month or \$1730 per week will happen

Good news going forward

- We can achieve balanced revenue to expenses in 2024 through executing a bridge strategy
- We have persevered through incredibly challenging times and the church is growing
- We are very close to eliminating financial reporting gaps from 2023 and prior
- We will have good financial data going forward in 2024
- We are improving financial processes
 - Moving to QuickBooks beginning Jan 2024
 - Implemented a check scanner to improve efficiency and accuracy
 - Evaluating a corporate credit card with 1.25% cash back that can automatically sync with QuickBooks and will improve controls
 - More to come.....

Bill Daniels – SPRC Report in Attachments

Matt Morgan – Trustees report in Attachments

Pastor's Report from Dr. Suddarth in Attachments

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrelyn Arterburn
Recording Secretary