

Platte Woods United Methodist Church
Meeting Minutes of the Leadership Council (LC)
May 11, 2020

Present

LC: Christie Dade, Michael Hundt, Warren Dudley, Jamie Grayson, Al Minnis, Amy Schemenauer, Natalie Toalson, Lauren Hogel, Brad Darnell, Marc Evans, Kirby McDaniel and Tom Short

Staff: Steve Breon, Britton Fields, Misty Wilkinson and Lori Bogart

The PWUMC LC was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on May 11, 2020 by Jamie Grayson, Chairperson.

NEW BUSINESS

Phased re-opening of the church/gatherings (funerals) – The church is following the city, county and CDC recommendations. A re-opening plan has been drafted that outlines a slow and conservative approach. Also included are the extra cleaning measures that will be taken to keep the church safe. Lori is sending staff a survey related to their comfort level of returning to the office with a possible reopening of June 27. The pastors are working on schedule four funerals and considering outside services which would allow up to 50 people.

Regarding the issue of wearing masks, Steve mentioned that we have to keep in mind that we're a voluntary organization. We can ask parishioners to wear a mask and participate in safe practices. However, we can't mandate behavior.

Brad asked about accessing the live stream services and if others were having trouble. Britton mentioned they are continuing to work on the process and had changed platforms. Amy asked if there could be a more direct way to access the services on the website. Better location or adding a button that clearly states the action (click here) to help those who aren't as familiar with computers/technology.

Lori mentioned that March 29th and Easter service both had large attendance. Since Easter we have seen a steady decline in attendance.

PDO summer session is planning to open June 2 with reduced capacity. Approximately \$7,000 will be refunded to parents due to temporary closure of the program due to the virus.

Financial update – Misty reported that we are seeing steady giving. April was a strong budget month in terms of giving coming in above budget and expenses falling below projections. Our property management expenses were about 25% below budget. As a church we continue to give in this time of uncertainty to those in need and through mission gifts. The group discussed that we may see an uptick in needs for rent and utilities as June 1 approaches and the government benefits run out. The staff is always looking for different and unique ways to help with wholistic healing through prayer, counseling and connecting them to an appropriate social service.

Pastoral transitions – Pastor Steve Breon is retiring mid-June after more than 40 years of ministry in the Missouri Conference of the UMC. Pastor Nancy Liston is also retiring, and Pastor Jessica Richard is taking a new appointment as the senior pastor at McMurry UMC in June. Pastor Yvi Martin will be joining as the new senior pastor beginning in August, with Associate Pastor Choongho Kwon joining late June.

There will be card showers for Pastors Nancy and Jessica and a retirement parade for Pastor Steve & Cindy Breon in the PWUMC parking lot on June 14 from 1 – 3 p.m.

Important Dates

- Next meeting – June 8 @ 6:30
- Annual Conference – postponed/TBD

Submitted by Amy Schemenauer, Secretary