

Adrian First United Methodist Church
Leadership Board Meeting
Minutes for February 18, 2025

Present: Kay Allingham, Bill Bachman, Gerry Burg, Barbara Foor, Sandra Harsh, Matthew Herr, Rev. Alice Ford, Christy Mesaros-Winckles, Christine MacNaughton, Scott Morton, Sally Powers, Janet Salzwedel. This was a hybrid meeting which included in-person and on-line attendance through Zoom.

Opening prayer by Sally Powers

Board Chairperson Matt Herr called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm.

1. **Spiritual Formation** led by Janet Salzwedel. Janet gave highlights from the book, *Being United Methodist Christians: Living a Life of Grace and Hope*, Chapter 1, "What Is Our Biblical Story?" We discussed our early experiences with the Bible. The takeaway from the chapter is that God's spirit continues to move United Methodists whenever they read the Bible. There was discussion around experiencing God when reading Scripture, whether alone or with others. The point is to discern God's call to action for us. Wesley's Quadrilateral of Scripture, Tradition, Experience, and Reason is a helpful framework.
2. **Leadership Equipping** - Learning to read financial reports was led by Scott Morton. Clarification about the roles of Treasurer and decision-making teams, e.g. Memorials, Endowment. There are 2 endowment funds. First is the General Fund at Old National Bank, and second is the YES fund for youth activities at the Michigan Conference Endowment Fund. Per IRA rules, we have a certain percentage of the funds that must be spent every year. It was suggested that Norm Glasser attend a future meeting to explain the Endowment Funds to the Board.
3. **Goal Review and Accountability** discussion led by Rev. Alice Ford. The Board needs to define goals for the church for the coming year. We need to define the Mission and Vision before writing goals. The group decided to have a Saturday workshop dedicated to writing our Mission and Vision statements. Matt will send a Google Form for the Board to indicate their availability on upcoming Saturdays.
4. **Packet and Consent Calendar items** - Questions: Is it the responsibility of this Board to make guidelines for the working groups? Our responsibility is to hold teams accountable. Gerry Burg moved to accept the consent calendar. Seconded by Scott Morton. Motion passed 11-0-0
5. **Generative and Strategic Work.**
 - a. How to manage the Information Gap - Rev. Alice Reports are due the first Monday of the month, so financial reports will always be a month behind. Reports will be submitted 2 weeks prior to the meeting. If there are important updates, they can be sent as an addendum.
 - b. Covenant - a draft from the ad hoc committee was presented for Board input. Janet will incorporate the suggestions and submit for Board approval.
 - c. Mission & Vision -The Board agreed to meet as least one Saturday morning from 9-12. Matt will survey Board members to determine a meeting date ASAP.

- d. Staff Updates - Staff will interact differently with this Board than with previous committees. Staff issues for the Board to deal with should be infrequent. Information about staff should not be in documents that anyone with the link can access.
- e. Spiritual Formation Leader - Janet Salzwedel will coordinate the Spiritual Formation Study at the beginning of our meetings.

6. Communication - What from this meeting should be reported to the congregation? We are establishing Mission, Vision and Goals and welcome input. There should be a summary of the meeting in Tidings, perhaps sit at coffee hour to take questions. Names of Board members will be added to the bulletin starting next Sunday. Not put too much out to the congregation until we are more confident in what we are doing. Publish minutes. Matt to let congregation know that our work has begun and how to give input. Christy moved to have Matt make a brief announcement during an upcoming worship service that meetings have begun, introduce us, and inform the congregation that minutes will be available at the information desk. Janet seconded. Motion passed 9-0-2

Closing Prayer by Rev. Alice Ford.

Meeting adjourned

Next meeting of the Board will be Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 6:00-7:30 pm, Room 3 and Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Allingham