

Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

Ghent UMC December 6, 2020

Call to Order

A Leadership Team meeting of Ghent UMC was held on December 6, 2020 via zoom. It began at 11:30 a.m. and was presided over by Gary Bonnewell, with Lisa King as recording secretary.

Attendees

Leadership Team

Gary Bonnewell	Melanie Cramer	Russ Evett
Peter Griffin	Steve Loomis	Pastor Melody Tanner

Other

Nellwyn Beamon	Faye Joseph	Lisa King	Ann Robertson
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Team members not present

Linda Rienerth	Lynn Tiedge	Steve Vegh	Bill Whitehurst
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Devotional and Prayer

Pastor Melody shared a devotional on preparing our hearts for Christmas, referring to Mark 1:1-8. She then prayed.

Approval of minutes from last meeting

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on September 27, 2020 was made and approved unanimously.

Reports and Old/New Business

Finance Peter Griffin reported that since the last Leadership Team meeting, a member offered to pay \$3,900 for releathering the Great bellows of the organ. Therefore, the Rawles estate funds will not need to be used. Peter also reviewed the November 2020 spending plan report and the November 30, 2020 balance sheet. He said that we have paid 100% of our district apportionments per the Rawles estate funds. In January, we will determine if we can pay more to the 2020 conference apportionments. As far as our PPP loan, in January we will apply to change this into grant funds. Peter recommended retitling the WFA Organ Fund to the Organ/Piano Fund for efficiency. It was approved unanimously. Lastly, Peter proposed the Sarah Forbes estate gift of \$10,000 be used as follows: 1/3 Organ/Piano Fund, 1/3 Music Ministry, and 1/3 GUMP music. It was approved unanimously.

Trustees/ Endowment/ Property Steve Loomis reported the railings on the outside staircase leading from the main floor to the garden were repaired. He added that the bases of the railings need to be painted, along with a few other areas around the church building. We are going to get estimates. Also, the Ghent Neighborhood League planted a tree on the side of Raleigh Ave. next to Ohef Sholom.

Missions and Homeless Task Force Pastor Melody Tanner welcomed Faye Joseph to the zoom meeting. She will be joining our church, and also joining our Leadership Team in January as our Mission co-chair, alongside Steve Vegh. Faye presented a summary of the Homeless Committee's discussions with Ohef Sholom Temple and Christ & St. Luke's. Christ and St. Luke's has a porta potty next to their garden area for use by construction workers, but it is also available for the homeless to use. They would be amenable to keeping a porta potty on

their property for the homeless to use even after construction ends late in 2021, assuming the neighbors and the Civic League would approve. The group feels that the civic league may be more amenable to a permanent porta potty if there is success with the current porta potty. The churches are looking into splitting the cost of the permanent porta potty. Christ and St. Luke's purchased sleeping bags for the homeless who sleep on our grounds, and have discussed with these individuals that Ghent UMC prefers they sleep on our front steps as opposed to in our garden, for safety reasons. Melanie Cramer is looking into purchasing plastic containers for the homeless to store their belongings in, and Christ & St. Luke's has offered to store the containers next to their garden area. Ann Robertson has begun locking the gate to our garden. People can still access the garden via the wheelchair ramp. Lisa King will inform the columbarium visitors. Ghent UMC is in the process of hiring someone to pick up litter in the mornings for \$10 a day before preschool. Currently, Ann and Lisa are completing the task, but do not have the time to continue this permanently. Our cleaning contractor picks up litter 2 x week in the evening, but they are not available in the mornings which is when the bulk of the litter is being left by the overnight visitors. The litter in the garden has improved with the locking of the gate as well as by asking the homeless to use our front porch instead of the garden.

Pastor's Report

1. Melody said that we still need a few volunteers for our **Drive-Thru Living Nativity**. For more information, please view the sign up link in the newsletter or on the website.
2. The **Centennial celebration of the opening of our building** will be a yearlong celebration in 2021. One happening is a Homecoming celebration on Oct. 3, 2021 with guest Rev. Randy Harry who was called into the ministry at Ghent UMC. Russ Evett asked about postponing the celebrations until the following year due to Covid constraints. Melody replied that the Centennial committee can discuss that further.
3. **Open Table** is a model in which 6 people meet with an at-risk person on a long-term basis. It is a transformative process for all involved. Anthem recently gave a grant so that Open Table can expand into Norfolk. The first year would be paid for by the grant. It would start in January. We can have as many tables as we want. We don't have to supply the volunteers as it can be anyone in the community. Faye Joseph and Melody propose starting an Open Table at Ghent UMC. Melody motioned that we become a licensed church for Open Table to start the process January. Russ Evett seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously. Open Table will be added to the website once the link is given to the church office.
4. Melody said that if people express frustration with our **open status**, please let them know we are operating under the constraints of the UMC and we are doing the best that we can to keep everyone safe.

Congregational Care Melody asked everyone to please keep in touch with one another. Melody only has time currently for emergencies and those who get in touch with her. If you do get in touch with someone who has a prayer concern, please let Melody know, and let them know Melody is praying for them, and the church as well.

Messy Church Melanie Cramer reported that our Messy Church to-go efforts are successfully continuing.

Music Nellwyn Beamon reported Christopher Taylor will be playing for our Christmas Eve outdoor service at 5:30 p.m.

GUMP Ann Robertson reported that all students and teachers have thankfully been healthy.

Adjournment

Pastor Melody closed with a prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Lisa King, Recording Secretary.