

# Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

Ghent UMC March 14, 2021

## Call to Order

A Leadership Team meeting of Ghent UMC was held on March 14, 2021 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	Faye Joseph
Steve Loomis	Linda Rienert	Pastor Melody Tanner	Steve Vegh	

### Other

Nellwyn Beamon	Lisa King	Ann Robertson
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### Team members not present

Bill Whitehurst
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## Devotional and Prayer

Pastor Melody shared a devotional based on a poem which states, “I have not heard your voice in years, but my heart has conversations with you every day.” Gary Bonnewell shared a thought, based on his reading of “The Call” by Adam Hamilton, that our church should be as faithful as Paul because we have a calling.

## Approval of minutes

Gary Bonnewell moved to approve the minutes of the previous meetings on December 6, 2020 and November 15, 2020. The minutes were approved unanimously.

## Reports and Old/New Business

**Finance** Peter Griffin reported that in 2020, we had \$9,800 more in income than expenses primarily due to the PPP loan. We met our pledge budget because some individuals were able to contribute more than pledged. If you would like to receive a copy of the 2020 financial reports, please let Peter or Lisa King know.

Peter also submitted the Feb. 2021 Spending Plan collapsed report and the Feb. 28, 2021 Balance Sheet to the Leadership team for review.

Lastly, Peter asked for individuals to please contact the church office re: their intended financial giving for 2021, for budget planning purposes, if they haven’t already done so.

**Trustees/ Endowment/ Property** Steve Loomis reported that two repairs are upcoming from Cox-Powell. The first is relocating the emergency boiler switches to the hallway outside of the boiler room. The second is to replace the soft solder in the HVAC unit installed in 2019 in the downstairs chapel/ fellowship hall.

Secondly, Steve said there is a small list of parsonage repairs and updates to be scheduled soon. This includes an HVAC tune-up of the cooling, fencing of the back yard, interior painting, and pressure washing of the exterior.

Lastly, the trustees distributed five \$800 scholarships to our college students on February 1 from the church’s scholarship fund.

**Mission** Faye Joseph said that God is moving the Homeless Task Force forward in that our membership from area churches is growing. She thanked Andrew Karakla for being in touch with the individuals who find rest on our property, as well as his efforts with community organizations that are also helping the homeless. Christ and St. Luke's has approved placing near the community garden plastic benches in which the homeless may store their belongings. The litter on our property is still something we are trying to improve.

Faye also said we are looking for 6 volunteers to join the Open Table to help a mother or expectant mother, who is in recovery from a substance use disorder, move toward the better life she envisions for herself and her children. It is a transformative process for all involved. It requires a 1 year commitment for 1 hour a week. Extensive training to learn the structured approach is provided. We may have 2 people who have committed to join so far. There is an introductory webinar on Thursday, March 18, from 6-7 p.m. Attending the webinar does not obligate you to volunteer. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity and let Faye know if you are interested or would like more information.

**Congregational Care** Pastor Melody asked for prayers for a member who is recovering from surgery. Melody also asks for us to continue to be in contact with one another.

**Messy Church** Melanie Cramer submitted a Mar. 14, 2021 Messy Church report. She said one change to the written report is that we will not be able to have food at our May MC gathering.

**Music** On February 8, Roy Belfield of the Tidewater Chapter of the American Guild of Organists presented an online lecture recital on works by African-American music composers. He played the Ghent UMC organ. You can find the video on you tube by going to the playlist on Ghent United Methodist Church's YouTube channel.

**GUMP** Ann Robertson submitted a Mar. 14, 2021 preschool report. Ann has strictly enforced our Covid-19 safety procedures. We have not had any cases of Covid-19 at the preschool.

**Pastor's Report** Melody Tanner said that we are working towards having weekly in-person worship starting on Easter Sunday, Apr. 4. We will worship outside, but if there is bad weather we will move inside with additional safety precautions. We are also working towards small groups being able to have in-person meetings, if desired, beginning on April 4. Lastly, the healthy church team will need to work on a policy for outside groups.

**Centennial celebration** Russ Evett reported that the first worship service in our sanctuary was on Easter Sunday, April 16, 1922. He said we are aiming to have our Centennial commemoration on Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022. The homecoming celebration with guest Rev. Randy Harry, who was called into the ministry at Ghent UMC, has been postponed from Oct. 3, 2021, to next spring on a date that is to be determined. It was noted that he will not preach during the Easter worship service in 2022 as we will have a new pastor. Russ is forming a sub-committee for the centennial celebration.

Russ made a motion that the council approve for the church to apply for designation as a historic landmark by the VA and National Historic Commissions. The cost for having a professional complete the applications will be covered by two church members. Peter Griffin so moved. All unanimously approved.

**Earth Day and Prayer Tree** Faye Joseph said she would like for Ellen to speak about the environment for Earth day. Faye also asked about the prayer tree which is to be installed near the side entrance. She said it would be fine to put that in the garden instead; or if not a tree, then a rain garden.

## **Adjournment**

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

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