

**Minutes of  
Dixboro UMC Leadership Council Zoom Meeting  
Tuesday, Nov 16, 2021 7:00pm**

**Present and Zooming:** Pastor Jeanne Garza, Mary Turfe, Tom Little (chair), Brent Howlett (Rep to Annual Conf., Discipleship Ministry Chair), Jayne Worthy-Howlett (Pres. DUMW), Harold Tuckett (VCI Coord., Faith Community/Hospitality Chair), Briana Murphy (Social Justice Coordinator), Mary Ellen Miller (Secretary), Mary Turfe (Rep to Annual Conf., Lay Leader), Randy Hucks (Treasurer), Patty Burns (Faith Community/Fellowship Chair), and Charles Engle (Financial Sec.), Reverend Mary , Cathy Freeman (Caring Ministry), Marilyn Pobanz (SPRC)

**Missing:** Kenn Scheffer (Trustees), Carl Johns, Peggy Moran

- Opening - Jane - Teach me to have a heart of Thanksgiving and a joyful heart.

October minutes - no comments

- Village Green presentation (includes visual aids) – Tom Freeman

Thank you, Tom Freeman is part of the Village Green non-profit. A big project to renovate the interior of the school house to incorporate a restroom. Hope to start in 2022 and to make the school house available to groups. Currently the farmer's market uses the church restroom.

Background at an admin meeting in fall of 2011 discussion to use the Village green and school house. The Dixboro village green inc is a non-profit. It has been owned by the church since 1958. The group started to take money from a diverse set of groups to pursue grants. The Farmers market was a way to get people involved. It is not easy for Farmers to make money at the village green, the farmers market loses money 10,000 every year. Only one employee and we pay rent to the church. Community service to bring people together. Even in 2021 it attracted 7500 people to the market.

Green has trunk or treat, christmas and car show.

We want to let others use the Green as well.

The school house needed repairs immediately so grants were needed. The non-profit was a great idea - a new roof was needed almost immediately. The windows were broken and the brick was deteriorating. Lots of projects needed to restore the building and the landscaping. The partnership that is strongest is with the church and the village green.

Superior township has been a vital partnership in order to get money available for maintenance, improvements, care of the trees, superior township has been cutting the grass for 7 years. Grass is cut to optimize conditions for the farmers market.

The new pavilion was done to make a more usable entertainment venue. The church benefits with services on the village green. At the market the band performs on the pavilion. The pavilion was paid for by a lot of people with town of superior putting in the greatest amount.

The town is interested in helping us put in restrooms that are up to code. Seeking a permit to put in a septic system. Expenses are 14000 with two soils tests. We have a tentative permit for a drain field. The drain field will change the way the green works as we will have to ensure cars no longer drive on the drain field.

This is an expensive project - \$150,000 is the range - it is a daunting figure. It is a change to a church owned property. The church will not be putting the bill. The organization has pulled in \$250,000

The township is investing and working to make the building available. There is no public park in this part of the town so its exciting resource. The church has been keeping the property open since 1958.

The south portion of the school house will be a restroom on the west side and a utility room on the east side. The entryway will be widened to restore the building to its original look.

Budgets are reasonable estimates -

Becky Horvath told Tom he needed a way to post information about the events happening on the green. During a market - Becky donated money towards a message center. The message center will be placed on the sidewalk to the green - its a park type message green. Installation will occur after the drain field is finalized.

The Michigan one room school house association nominated us for school house of the year. The school house one a plaque for one room school house of the year. It thanks the church for the stewardship of the building.

Brie concerned about historic designation - The school house is a historic place but restoring door and interior is not an issue.

Playground is being left alone.

- Proposal from the Altar Guild (attached)

Altar Guild wants to buy a new tree - Pastor Jeanne wants to buy a new tree - valid reasons, but Rev MARY has been working with children on a new project. Is the tree still viable? The lights are broken -

but temp lights could be put on it. Issue is Rev Mary wants to do something with Pat says tree can not go up till first of Dec. Rev Mary knows the tree is heavy so she will find help to put it up. Maybe we could get a sale tree after the holidays. One issue is who is going to pay for the tree. The altar guild has 1622.98 so there is money to buy the tree. The guild does not have an annual fund, but they do have a dedicated fund. No objection to purchasing a tree - coordinate time.

- Kenn Scheffer, Trustee Chairman sent in the following updates:
  - Rob Chappuis has stepped down from the Trustee Committee. He has served several years and is available for consultation if necessary.
  - Active Trustee membership is: Kenn Scheffer, Carl Johns, Carol Bennett. Given that we have so few trustees we will count on the membership to help with projects as they present themselves. Given the personal situation of the pastor our direct help around the parsonage will be required.
  - Kenn purchased an additional heater for the parsonage breezeway to help keep it warmer in the winter, and will install it soon.
  - New handrails added to the columns of the Southwest entrance for convenience and safety.
  - Kenn is in design mode to supply two custom storage cabinets between the two sinks in the Men's bathroom and Ladies bathroom. Plan to hang another mirror and picture in the Ladies bathroom.
  - Kenn signed a contract with Margolis Companies to provide snow clearing services for the winter and asked them to look at grading the driveway and parking area to get rid of the potholes. While they are a bit erratic in their attention to this task, he promised to take a look at the situation.
  - Barbara and Kenn finished research on the stove for the kitchen. Selection between two high end residential stoves. Both meet our criteria. As far as the double oven unit, we need to buy a commercial unit and the research continues. Consideration for additional fundraising may be needed. The stove will be between \$4700 and \$5,600. The double stack oven unit will be over \$8,500 unless we find a good used one. Delivery times unknown, but no installation until we have both on site. Current stove is working fine and will be used for several classes and casserole baking sessions this winter.
  - The contract to repair the basement leak has been issued to HomeSpec BasementFix. \$3,550. They will notify Kenn when they are able to do the repair; probably not until Spring.
  - We have been passing our quarterly water testing with the County Health Department. The last one for the year will have to be submitted before December 31, 2021.

Randy sent the budget out before the meeting - any questions? No

Thanksgiving funds are coming in and last week \$230 - assume we get \$600 as he can make sure it happens.

Randy needs receipts for the things that are purchased

Peggy looking into refugee missions and will share in the next few days.

- No updates from Structure Task Force team or Ministry Team
- Any other business

Brent will speak on committee positions

SPRC Marilyn they need more people to serve on committees - put out a general call to the congregation. We are not very focused on getting people involved. It is part of faith development to be involved with your church.

Sunday is stewardship so people will bring cards so do a stewardship moment to get people serving on teams.

Maybe over next few weeks put together a video of what the committee is about and play that at services to recruit people. Feature a team each month to get a better sense of what the team does.

Governing boards - missing staff parish people

All the chairs serve on finance

We meet once a month - let them know it is not all consuming.

Santa and cookie walk will be on Dec 11 - Patty Burns is doing the Facebook post of the events. Dec 11 there will be an event between church and Village Green with carolers, tree lighting event, Santa will be there to greet and give kids treat. From 3-7 is a cookie walk - will put up a sign on Plymouth road.

Cookie walk benefits SOS diaper pantry - bring diaper package and get a deal on cookies.

Tree lighting at 5:45 - booster run for three weeks.

Santa 5:30 - 6:30 scheduled and will be ready to work and carolers will be singing at 5:30

Pastor Jeanne - staff talked about Christmas eve service and concern about too many people. We could still have too many people so we decided to have one service on YouTube and use fellowship hall as overflow.

Church conference post-poned to Dec 1st and will be on zoom. 6:30 staff parish and 7:00 is church conference.

Do we need to meet? We will cancel and if need to have it we will have the week before on Dec 14.

- Closing (Mary Turfe) Lord lead us as we leave this place.