

Dixboro United Methodist Church
Leadership Council Minutes, April 27, 2023, 7:00 PM Church Parlor

Present in Person: Tom Little, Chair; Patty Burns, Chair Faith Community-Fellowship & Hospitality; Charles Engle, Financial Secretary; Kenn Scheffer, Chair of Trustees; Brent Howlett, Chair Discipleship and Chair Staff/ Parish Relations; Jayne Worthy-Howlett, President- Dixboro United Women in Faith (UWF a.k.a. DUMW); Barbara Scheffer, Lay Leader; : Peggy Moran, Chair Missions Ministry; Cathy Freeman, Chair of Caring Ministry; Rev. Mary Hagley; Carl Johns, member at large; Rev. Jeanne Garza, clergy.

Present on ZOOM: Randy Hucks, Treasurer; Briana Murphy, Social Justice Coordinator.

Present as church member: Carol Barnett

Minutes of March 2, 2003 Leadership Council Meeting were approved when previously sent to members.

Opening prayer by Rev. Garza

Updates from Committees and Ministry Chairs

1. Randy/Treasurer- sent his treasurer's report electronically a week ago.
 - a. CDs are producing some interest for accounts.
 - b. Employees can now use Direct Deposit if they choose.
 - c. Clarification needed as to where the "rent" money from DVG is going. Carl will explore and report back.
 - d. Kenn reminded Randy not to finish paying for new flooring until issues resolved on the base board molding coming loose at some corners.
2. Kenn/Trustees-
 - a. Positive feedback on new floor, new ultra violet light installed for water filtration system, flushing valve replaced in men's bathroom.
 - b. Next steps; determining which system to purchase for exterior door locks; window treatment in Fellowship Hall; monitoring cleaning plans with custodian (Spiffy Clean); repair ceiling light not working in Sanctuary
 - c. **REMINDER TO AVOID USING ANY "SCOTCH TAPE" ON WALLS, GLASS, KITCHEN APPLIANCES FOR POSTING INFORMATION!!!!** Cost up to \$200 in time spent by painters to remove it
3. Brent/SPRC-
 - a. Job descriptions for both positions (Technical Director and Minister of Children and Youth) created and posted on the conference website. Suggested they be added to our website.
 - b. Planning started for Rev. Mary's going-away party on June 25, 2023.
4. Jayne/DUWF-
 - a. Lunches-with-Love event at Eggstravaganza raised about \$70 which will be added to the Foster Care Closet mission proceeds for this year. Bags to be assembled on 4-30-23 and taken to Food Gatherers.
 - b. Rummage Sale planning in progress. Jayne will send information to Patty to post information electronically in a variety of places.
 - c. Fellowship Hour Salad Sunday will be May 7, 2023. Coordinated by Carole DeSantis and Carole Buttrum.
5. Barb/Lay leader- *Laity Links* has been well received. Second edition will be coming after this meeting.
6. Cathy/Caring Ministry- nothing at this time

7. Peggy/Missions Ministry
 - a. Only \$280 raised for UMCOR.
 - b. Due to the multiple events occurring lately they decided that mission projects such as the “Mother/Baby” gifts for House By the Side of the Road be delayed until June vs. May.
 - c. Peggy will prepare information to share with congregation on a Sunday to be picked later, regarding the Mission Ministry.
 - d. Mission for “packing Back-Packs” will occur in July when more sales are on for back to school items.
8. Brent/ Discipleship Ministry-
 - a. Committee members are needed for planning and implementation.
 - b. Mission trip with kids planned for June 18-23, 2023
 - c. Kids will help with leading worship on Mother’s Day
9. Patty/Faith Community Ministry-
 - a. Eggstraveganza, April 8, 2023 on the Village Green, very well attended and lots of help this year.
 - b. Trivia Night, 5/12/23 7:00 in Fellowship Hall
 - c. Request for church members to represent the church at the Farmer’s Market once a month, possibly at the last Friday of the month. Patty will make a sign-up sheet.

New Business

1. Township and Dixboro Village Green folks are starting planning for the 200-year celebration of Dixboro’s anniversary in 2024. Barb in on task force from the Dixboro Village Green, meeting May 9th, 9:00 in Fellowship Hall. Need to determine what Church wants to do to be involved.
2. Status of the potential purchase of the Village Green by the township. Appraisal has been done but haven’t seen results yet.
3. Discussion of the upcoming potential split of the Methodist Church
 - a. Tom did some extensive research and shared several documents with Leadership Council (see attached links).
 - b. Tom also shared information about the Methodist Church in Big Rapids which surveyed their congregation, voted against a proposal to disaffiliate from the UMC, and also voted yes to becoming a more inclusive church.
 - c. Discussion followed his presentation of his findings:
 - i. No plans in place to survey members of DUMC.
 - ii. Broader decisions on these issues are scheduled to be made at the General Conference in 2024
 - iii. Jeanne discussed with the Bishop the issue of ownership of church property.
 - iv. Also talked about some churches going through the reconciliation process.
 - v. Barb recommended reading a book by Phyllis Tickle titled, “The Great Emergence: How Christianity is Changing and Why”. Author explores the major changes in Christianity that have occurred about every 500 years. The changes lead to growth for both existing and new forms of Christianity.

Closing prayer by Patty

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted: Barbara Scheffer (temporary secretary)

Next meeting: Thursday, June 22, 2023 7:00 both in person and ZOOM

ATTACHMENTS:

UMC issue overview resources:

- Blessing one another FAQ [Blessing-One-Another-V01222.pdf \(michiganumc.org\)](#)
- Webpost on Q&A and misinformation [Is The United Methodist Church really...? \(Part 1\) \(umc.org\)](#)
- Webpost on disaffiliation [What should United Methodist congregations know about disaffiliation? \(umc.org\)](#)
- Comparison of the UMC and the GMC (PDF attached)



UMC v GMC
Comparison Chart.p

Sample Process pack from Big Rapids First United Methodist Church (PDF attached)

- Opening Letter and Survey
- LGBTQAI+ Resources web page
- Voting Procedures
- Special Church Conference Motion #1 – Disaffiliation
- Special Church Conference Motion #2 – Affirmation



Big Rapids FUMC
Example Pack.pdf

Note: BRFUMC recently revised the LGBTQAI+ Resources web page to a **Welcome Statement** page since they passed Motion #2!! <https://www.bigrapidsfirst.org/welcome>

Additional link

Reconciling Ministries Network <https://rmnetwork.org/our-mission/>