



## Leadership Board (LB) Minutes – 9 May 2024)

Bruce Bartolain, Chair; Pastor Melissa Porter-Miller; Joana Arthur; Charles Dankwah; Gale Deutsch; Dan Dickinson; Matthew Dodds (Zoom); Kathy Henry (Zoom); Dana Kauffman; Patricia O'Donnell; and Peggy Owusu-Ansah

**1. Opening Prayer/Spiritual Formation.** Bruce led the Board in a group reading of the draft Breakthrough Prayer for seeking God's guidance in leading us to our recently approved vision, followed by a discussion of ways to modify the prayer. No changes were made at this time.

**2. Approval of Information reports.** Two documents were approved as a packet: April 11th Leadership Board Minutes and the Treasurer's March 2024 End of Month Report.

**3. Leadership Equipping.** Pastor Melissa summarized the results of the latest General Conference that concluded on May 3rd. Major actions included approval of legislation to restructure our denomination to be more "contextual" in ministry; and the removal of restrictive language in the Book of Discipline related to LGBTQ people. Also approved was a reduction in church apportionments for 2025 and 2026 and a full communion agreement with the Episcopal Church; meaning that the faiths can share clergy (subject to agreement by the Episcopal Church).

**5. Pastor's Report.** There were some "big services" in April, especially evidenced in the virtual attendance for the Children's Musical on April 28th. All staff reviews have been completed. Pastor Melissa summarized themes for upcoming services, provided an update on the music ministry, and mentioned a possible "church to church" audit partnership with the Vine UMC Church (Dunn Loring, VA) to meet our annual audit requirements.

### **6. Strategic Planning/Mission Engagement.**

- The LB reviewed the recently completed Strategic Planning Retreat on May 4<sup>th</sup>
- The LB approved the Franconia UMC Vision Statement, noting that it appeared to align well with the church's core values and welcoming statement. The LB agreed to share the Vision Statement with the congregation on June 11<sup>th</sup>, as part of a sermon series
- The LB agreed to further refine the draft 2025 goals for each element of the vision at the June LB meeting

### **7. Action Items.**

- **Staff Developmental Goals:** Pastor Melissa and the Personnel focus team provided the LB with staff developmental goals for 2024/2025 as part of the staff review process
- **Pastor's Annual Evaluation:** The LB personnel focus team led the LB in conducting the pastor's annual review, noting the numerous strengths of Pastor Melissa while acknowledging that implementing the Simplified Accountable Structure remained a work-in-progress. The LB committed to allowing the Pastor her sabbath day on Friday



- **Church Staff Updates:** Joana provided a positive update on our search for a new Office Manager [which subsequently bore fruit in Ms. Jade Miller accepting the position]. Joana also noted that one Nursery Worker had resigned
- **Staff Appreciation Day:** The LB discussed its approach to expressing appreciation to the staff during the June 2<sup>nd</sup> services
- **Staff Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Sustainability:** The LB discussed the fiscal realities of keeping our staff at a suitable level to maintain accomplishment of our vision, and noted that fiscal management will be important

**8. Communication.** *The LB agreed to summarize the General Conference decisions at a Town Hall meeting conducted via Zoom on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM.*

**9. Executive Session.** No executive session was held.

**Closing Prayer.** The LB Chair closed the meeting by leading the LB in praying our newly developed breakthrough prayer.