

[DRAFT] Leadership Board (LB) Minutes – August 8, 2024

Attendees: Dan Dickinson (Zoom), Dr. Charles Dankwah, Joana Arthur, Pastor Melissa, Bruce Bartolain, Dana Kauffman, Patricia O'Donnell, Kathy Henry (Zoom), Gale Deutsche, and Peggy Owusu-Ansah (Zoom)

Opening Prayer/Spiritual Formation: Patricia O'Donnell provided a devotion on Jeremiah 6 about how we, as Christians, have been chosen and called by God to deliver a message to the people around us.

Approval of Information Reports: Two documents were approved as a packet; the End of Month Treasurer's Reports for August 2024, and the July 2024 LB Minutes. For the treasurer's report, Bruce noted that although we are collecting more, our expenses continue to exceed our collections, so a fiscal challenge remains. For the July LB Minutes, two amendments were made.

Leadership Equipping: The board discussed the article, "The Great Omission," and related the article to our current goals. The 'Great Omission' is forgetting about the word "Go" from the 'Great Commission' scriptural reference in Matthew 28: 16-20, where Jesus directed his followers to "go and make disciples..." The LB noted how the Great Commission requires us to 'go out' beyond our church walls to share the good news and make disciples, and our 2025 goals call for some work inside our church walls, but also some work out in the community, like our goal to work with other churches.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Melissa noted the following items: Franconia UMC will host a luncheon for the new District Superintendent and about 50 clergy members on September 11th. Volunteers to help are welcome. We will meet with Kingstowne Community Church in August to plan bi-lateral events. There has been a slight increase in live attendance at worship services. We continue to work with Vine UMC to conduct our annual audit. Our Office Manager is forming a website team and setting up new listservs to help organize volunteers.

Strategic Planning: We are starting our Love Your Neighbor Campaign again this year and will ask Kingstowne Community Church to partner with us for several events, including a World Communion Service and Rise Against Hunger Mission project at Franconia UMC on 6 October, and a multi-church costumed worship service at Franconia Community Park on 27 October. The LB had a good discussion and was supportive about these combined events, but the Pastor also acknowledged that we were still working out how our respective individual church goals might best be achieved.

Action Items:

a. Updated COVID Policy Review: The LB reviewed and approved an update to the church's COVID Policy.

b. Update on Work Groups for Policy Development

Building Management Team Policy. The LB discussed the policy draft that is 'almost there' but still has a few challenges.

Financial Policies and Procedures Policy. Bruce noted that policy refinements that were called for in the July LB Meeting had been incorporated into the latest draft of the policy, but Bruce requested more time for additional refinements. The LB therefore held off from moving to approve the policy until all of the refinements have been approved. It was also noted that the refinements to the Finance Policy would require a subsequent update to the Personnel Policy.

c. Marching Orders for the Nominations and Leadership Development Committee: Pastor Melissa described the positions that the Nominations Committee will be filling for 2025. Bruce noted the need to parse duties between our current Treasurer and a new position for a person who would sit on the LB and be known as the *Treasurer of the Board*. The separation of duties was discussed.

d. 2025 Budget Preparation – Work Group Initiated: Bruce charged the Finance Focus Team to initiate a Work Group to formulate the budget for 2025. The LB discussed what would be expected for soliciting budget inputs and what to expect from the budget inputs, and the timeframe in which Teams would have to respond. Bruce indicated that the Work Group had flexibility in establishing the timeline, but the LB needed to approve the budget before the Charge Conference, and that date had yet to be decided.

Communications: There was no specific item for discussion, but the LB discussed how this area enabled the LB to discuss how we communicate with each other, the staff, the congregants, and the community, so it could be a very rich area for discussion.

Executive Session: There was no executive session.

Closing: Bruce closed out the August meeting with a prayer.