

APPROVED Leadership Board (LB) Minutes – November 14, 2024

Attendees: Bruce Bartolain, Pastor Melissa, Dan Dickinson, Kathy Henry, Dana Kauffman, Mike Coltrin, Dr. Charles Dankwah, Jessica Posey, Gale Deutsche, Peggy Owusu-Ansah, Joana Arthur, Matt Dodds.

Opening Pray/Spiritual Formation: Bruce offered a devotional on Teddy Roosevelt's 'man in the arena' speech from 1910, and a prayer of thanks for our LB members for having willingly stepped into the 'arena' in 2024.

Approval of Information reports: Two documents were approved as a packet: The October 2024 LB Minutes (with a minor modification), and the End of Month-October 24 Treasurer's Report.

Action Item: Financial Projections: Michael Coltrin, Finance Management Team Leader and member of the 2025 Budget Working Group, presented a graphic presentation of church accounts showing a decreasing trend over the past several years, and compared trends in church giving to church expenses since 2007. The LB concluded that further analysis is needed, and also concluded that a continued downward trend in our church accounts would demand hard budget decisions in 2025.

Leadership Equipping-NOVA District Conference: Bruce and Pastor Melissa and other LB members who attended the District Conference held earlier in November highlighted the event, noting a great emphasis on missions being conducted by the NOVA District and its attendant churches.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Melissa presented her monthly summary of team accomplishments and goals, focusing her report on a grant proposal that we are developing in coordination with Kingstowne Communion Church for an 18-month campaign within our surrounding community. The proposal will use a Wesleyan approach that includes larger community 'listening sessions' followed by more focused small group initiatives offering connection opportunities.

Team Review – *BEING Christ in the World*: Donell Reis presented a summary of the Being Ministry Team's accomplishments in 2024 and goals for 2025. 2024 accomplishments included building 60 menstrual kits for community distribution, several food drives including 10 Thanksgiving baskets for Koinonia, providing 400 cans of produce to Rising Hope, an overall great response to the Love Your Neighbor Campaign initiatives, and 19000 meals packaged during our October Rise Against Hunger Campaign. 2025 Goals included connecting more with other churches in community projects and addressing on-campus ministry needs.

Strategic Planning – Communications/Marketing Franconia UMC: Tabled for the Dec LB meeting.

Action Item – Leadership Training in December: Bruce and Pastor Melissa showed the agenda from 2023 and used that history to discuss how the training for this year's leadership training will be similar, but with more of an experienced approach to our discussions.

Action Item – Way Ahead on Our Rental Property and Koinonia: The Trustee Focus Team led a discussion on the way ahead on our rental property at 6025 Franconia Road and the Koinonia building which would soon be vacated by Koinonia. The LB agreed that it needed to give guidance for acting on our properties that minimize cost and maximize revenue over time. The LB agreed that a working group including members of the Trustee focus team and the Finance Management Team was needed to follow through on addressing issues with both the rental property and the Koinonia building. Dana Kauffman agreed to head the working group. The LB agreed that the Koinonia Building should be a revenue-producing asset.

Action Item – Way Ahead on Apportionments: The LB discussed our suspension of apportionment payments after August, noting that we have never *not* fully paid our apportionments. The Board decided to make an appeal to the congregation for additional giving to help pay for our apportionments. Peggy Owusu-Ansah agreed to make the appeal on behalf of the LB during the 24 November Service.

Action Item – Pastoral Appointment Review: The Personnel focus team led a discussion on how we would conduct the Pastoral Appointment Review during our December LB meeting, and members of the 2025 LB would be invited to attend, noting that the 2025 LB would be responsible for signing the preference form on behalf of the church laity. Bruce would invite the 2025 LB members to the December meeting.

Action Item – Leadership Training Objectives for Consideration: Bruce invited LB members to offer suggestions after the meeting on any specific training objectives that they would like to see incorporated into our Leadership Training Day on December 14.

Communication – None

Executive Session: None

Closing Prayer: Bruce closed the meeting by leading the LB in the church breakthrough prayer.