

WESTERN HILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Leadership Board Minutes**

February 13, 2018, 6:30 PM

WHUMC Stewart Family Life Center

Present: 14 – Miriam Cook, Bob Craig, Peggy Craig, Manny Gonzalez, Nancy Haegele, Mary Bell Haney, Troy Hughes, Roy Mathew, Lamont Nahrgang, Robert Pelfrey, Steve Putnicki, David Raley, Leah Renteria, Sarah Spencer,

Guests: 1 – Jane LaGrone

**Opening, Devotional, and Prayer – Steve Putnicki**

Chairman, Steve Putnicki, called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM. He opened the meeting with a devotional and challenge on helping people who “don’t have time” to know the satisfaction of serving. (See Attachment A)

We welcomed new Leadership Board members Nancy Haegele and Lamont Nahrgang.

**Reports:**

**Finance – Bob Craig**

(See attachment B)

**SPRC – Sarah Spencer**

Just completed the staff appreciation celebration on Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. The church is fully staffed. This is Sarah’s last year as SPRC chairman. A goal this year is to have a comprehensive binder of staff job descriptions. Jane LaGrone and Robert Pelfrey will send E-copies of the job descriptions and Sarah will get them all updated.

**Trustees – Manny Gonzalez**

The Trustees have two purposes. 1) Managing the brick and mortar aspects of the church facility. 2) The Trustee Chairman is the President of WHUMC, Inc. He/she negotiates and signs contracts, etc. At the end of this meeting all the Trustees need to have a meeting chaired by Robert Pelfrey to elect the president and other officers of the Board of Trustees for 2018. [Results of election: Manny Gonzalez will remain Trustee Chairman and President of WHUMC, Inc. David Raley is Trustee Co-Chairman, and Leah Renteria is Trustee Secretary. Lamont Nahrgang is a Trustee Member].

Utilities, especially electricity, are very expensive. We cannot control nature. Please, everyone be aware of wasting this resource. Our media system needs to be revamped, not replaced. Hopefully, this expense will not come out of the general fund. Thankfully, we have the Foundation that will usually cover these costs. The air conditioner will soon be started. We have new chillers and a new boiler. We do not know if the other components will be working until the change-

over happens. Leah Renteria asked if we have considered looking at solar energy. Yes, but payback of the initial cost would take years or even decades.

### **The Ridge – Leah Renteria**

We have run into a few snags. The architect that was hired was actually moonlighting from his company and nothing was happening. That problem was resolved. The contractor hired to refurbish the new Ridge facility had to be fired. Another contractor has been hired and the job is underway. The congregation is doing a lot to help and our scheduled work days have been successful. We are still using the school on Sundays. We are already using the education area for bible studies. The worship area is not ready at all and our startup date is way beyond what we previously anticipated. Due to this, we have moved The Ridge's Pastor Appreciation Sunday to July

### **United Methodists International – Mary Bell Haney**

In 2016 the United Methodists came to an impasse concerning LGBTQs' roles in our denomination. The main question is about whether they should be permitted to be part of the clergy. The Council of Bishops (CoB) have selected 30 people from all over the world ranging in age from in their 20s to in their 80s who have been meeting for a year to discuss the possibilities of moving forward on this subject. The CoB are nervous so they want to hear from the rank and file. This Sunday at 3:00 PM WHUMC is hosting the first meeting for discussion. Subsequent meetings will be: March 4 – Odessa; March 18 – Clovis; April 21 – Albuquerque. The findings of these meetings will be submitted to the Bishops. They want to know what is most important for the people in our conference. The Bishops will present this to a special general conference in February 2019.

### **Discussion "Where have we come?" – All**

- ✓ Increased the number of turkey sandwiches.
- ✓ Changed our worship times
- ✓ Mission trip to Louisiana with four teens and six adults
- ✓ Membership has increased
- ✓ From our District Superintendent's standpoint we have remained stable, strong, and forward-looking while other congregations are getting weaker
- ✓ We have five different groups supporting the Opportunity Center
- ✓ Other active groups are Prayer Shawls, Quilted Prayer Squares
- ✓ Change the World
- ✓ We have a number of active bible studies going on reaching different people at different levels.

### **"Where are we going?"**

- ✓ The food truck ministry has a grant for the truck. The price is good and then it has to be equipped. We have been practicing with Operation Turkey Sandwich and two annual bazaar lunches. We have trained food handlers' managers
- ✓ Take the church to the people, building the community, loving people

- ✓ Manny says we should have shirts that let people know we are Western Hills. That's also a good idea for Opportunity Center volunteers
- ✓ Maundy Thursday service in the dark was very moving. Let's do it again
- ✓ Jenny Abbott and Mitzi Underwood are planning things for parents of our children and youth – things that are not book/study-based opportunities for which they do not have the time to spend
- ✓ Building this leadership board – have a retreat, bonding. The more we grow together with an atmosphere of trust, the more will follow our lead
- ✓ Family game nights. Parents organize – pot lucks
- ✓ Youth soccer league
- ✓ Outreach in nursing homes with the children - like putting on a talent show, visiting, or just painting ladies' fingernails!

**Report: Texas Methodist Fund - Year Long Giving      Steve Putnicki**  
(See Attachment C)

**Closing Prayer/Dismissal – Rev. Robert Pelfrey**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



**Peggy Craig**

(See Attachment D – Leadership Board Members)

Our Mission: Our mission is to reach out with the love of God to those beyond our church, to nurture our Church Body in the Christian Faith and Life, helping all to be transformed participants in the mission of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit

*"Reaching ... Nurturing ... Transforming"*

**Lewis Center Director F. Douglas Powe suggests strategies that can make it possible for those with significant time constraints to serve as church leaders — not merely to meet the church’s leadership needs but to help the individual know the satisfaction of serving.**

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“I’d like to get involved, but I just don’t have the time.” How often have you heard this response from a prospective leader? For many, it’s not just an idle excuse. There are likely people in our congregation who work 40 to 60-plus hours a week, commute some distances, and juggle a myriad of home and work responsibilities. Here are a few suggestions that may help us with significant time constraints serve as church leaders.

The reason to help busy people serve isn’t to meet the church’s leadership needs but to help the person know the satisfaction of serving, and hopefully see faith as means of bringing better balance to their life.

We can:

### **1. Use a remote meeting platform**

There are several remote meeting platforms (for example Google Hangouts, Facetime, Skype or GoToMeeting™) that can bring together people in different physical locations. These remote meeting platforms permits people to participant without having to show up in person, if they are still at work or just getting home, for example. It is key to find a platform that works for the group and have everyone commit to using it. We should keep in mind that good meeting etiquette is even more important with remote meeting technology. For example, having clear guidelines for how individuals will speak can prevent one person from dominating the conversation.

### **2. Define the commitment**

Individuals who are busy often do not mind participating **if the commitment is clearly defined**. For example, the church needs someone to lead a three-week class on stewardship. The perfect person to do it works 12-hour days during the week. But this person may be willing to lead the class on a Saturday or Sunday — with the clear expectation that it will only be for three weeks and that the church will not tap her for six other commitments.

### **3. Ask people to commit to at least one thing each year**

One idea that could be very successful in our congregation is to ask everyone to commit to giving some time to the church each year. This is especially important for those who work many hours per week. Ask them to commit to at least one thing during the year. Maybe as part of the stewardship campaign or leading a class.

### **4. Teach stewardship of time**

Saying "I'm too busy to serve" is akin to saying, "I don't have enough money to give." Often, it is less an issue of scarcity than of setting priorities. We can help people regain control of their overly busy lives by teaching that time, just like money, is a gift from God that must be stewarded and used with intention. Encouraging "first fruits" commitments of time can help congregants prioritize service to God and others, rather than seeing church leadership as something extra to squeeze in when all other time commitments are fulfilled.

Ultimately, the reason for helping busy people connect to the church isn't to meet the church's need for volunteers or leaders. It's to help the busy person know the satisfaction of serving, and hopefully see faith as means of bringing better balance to their life, instead of being just another thing on their to-do list.

*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing, and perfect will.*

*Romans 12:2*

### **The Prayer of Receptiveness for Servant Leaders**

Dear Lord

Our desire is to consistently welcome your guidance into how we lead. We want your presence and perfect wisdom to illuminate our thoughts, decisions, and actions. We know that this illumination is possible, and through welcoming it, we will be a more effective and joyous servant leaders.

Yet right now, God, we feel separated from you. Our minds and spirits feel tight with tension and stress. Despite our best intensions, we are finding it hard to slow down long enough to talk to you, Lord, and ask for your guidance. We are feeling the weight of our leadership position, and intense pressure to figure all the answers on our own.

We don't want to lead on our own; without true confidence or clarity.

We want and need to be *led* by you, God, and to lead others according to *your* will.

In this, Lord, we welcome your guidance. we open up our hearts to you. We open up to the renewing of our minds through your grace and wisdom.

*[Now, talk to God about the specific business challenge you're facing, in detail. Set context, and be specific. Lay out the full narrative of your challenge at God's feet.*

*Yes, he already knows what's going on in your life. But to guide you effectively, he needs you to gain perspective and clarity; things you can only develop through exploring your challenge out loud, from all angles.*

*When you do this – when you engage your problem together with God — you will find that you begin to relax. Your body will shed tension and stress.*

*Your mind will ease back open. The solution that is most aligned with your commitment to servant leadership will incrementally become clear to you.]*

Lord, thank you for your infinite patience, compassion, and love. Thank you for walking with us, step by step, through this leadership challenge.

In your holy name we pray,

Amen

# Financial Overview

- Operating Fund 12/31/16 \$ 1.41
- Operating Fund 12/31/17 \$22,252.53
  
- Tithe Expected to New Mexico Conference 2017 \$61639
  - Paid 2% to date, \$15393 for Pension & Health Benefits
  - Paid 8% to date, \$61846
  
- Designated Funds intact 12/31/17 \$115,610
- 2017 Prepaid Tithes Balance 12/31/17 \$ 0
  
- 2017 Budget Shortfall \$160,000

Western Hills United Methodist Church  
Statement of Revenue and Expense  
Year to Date 2017

	YTD Actual	Annual Budget	Budget Remaining
Total Operating Revenue-Western Hills	751,145	654,726	-96,419
Total Operating Expenses-Western Hills	814,237	860,433	-46,196
Total Operating Revenue-The Ridge	122,425	121,681	744
Total Operating Expenses-The Ridge	58,279	79,000	-20,721
Total Excess Revenue/(Expenses) WH and TR	1,054	-163,026	



## Financial Overview

Operating Fund 12-31-17	\$22,252
Operating Fund 01-31-18	\$1,231
Tithe Expenses to New Mexico Annual Conference	\$77,611
* Paid 2% to date, \$1305.63 for Pension & Health Benefits	
* Paid 8% to date, \$3815.06	
Designated Funds intact on 01-31-18	\$132,013
2018 Prepaid Tithes Balance 01-31-18	\$30,553
2018 Budget Shortfall	\$141,703

	YTD Actual	Annual Budget	Budget Remaining
Total Operating Revenue - Western Hills	\$46,699	\$662,550	\$615,851
Total Operating Expenses - Western Hills	65,533	867,447	801,914
Total Operating Revenue - The Ridge	7,539	190,969	183,430
Total Operating Expenses - The Ridge	6,022	127,775	121,753
	-\$17,317	-\$141,703	-\$124,386

“Conversation is currency of change.”

Concept of all: stewardship = concept of all – Mark 12

- 1) Clear vision and vision for church.

Transformative giving is not about the amount

Not about receivers needing to receive but givers needing to give.

Transformative giving – make giving the culture of the church

Communicate generosity

Generosity and stewardship all the time – year round not one time a year

Generosity of Time, Talent and Treasure

After we tithe, what do we do with the 90%

There is always enough when gifts are shared

Giving is the natural outcome of taking the privilege of giving and expressing gratitude

God has loved us so greatly that we have love to give away.

We need to create a Culture of Generosity

Able to communicate (personal story)

Treating people as though they have stories not just money to unlock the spirit of generosity trapped within them.

We should be satisfied with what we have not what we don't have.

Let Jesus do the talking – use scripture as example.

We need to talk about generosity

Covenant together as leaders to conquer or own financial demons

- 2) Trust I Leadership  
Communicate

- 3) fiscal responsibility (Transparency)

What is our preferred future?

Sanctify the imagination

Western Hills United Methodist Church  
2018 Leadership Board

<b>Chair:</b>	Steve Putnicki
<b>Lay Leader:</b>	Roy Matthew
<b>Delegates to Annual Conference:</b>	Steve Putnicki Mary Bell Haney Jack Phillips, Ridge
<b>Senior Pastor:</b>	Robert Pelfrey
<b>Pastor, The Ridge:</b>	Josh Kouri
<b>Staff-Parish Relations Team:</b>	Sarah Spencer Miriam Cook Nancy Haegele
<b>Finance Team:</b>	Bob Craig Nate Peevey tbd
<b>Trustees:</b>	Manny Gonzalez David Raley Lamont Nahrgang
<b>The Ridge:</b>	Leah Renteria Troy Hughes Lisa Telford