

Christ UMC Charge Conference
Harpeth River District
December 7, 2023 @ 6:00pm
MEETING MINUTES

Attachments: Annual Church report submitted to District Superintendent
2024 Leadership Roster
List of Attendees
Budget Report
2024 Evans Fund Grant Recipients

Welcome - Chris Haynes

Reflection – District Superintendent (D.S.) Vona Wilson: Used passage from John where Jesus healed the lame man at the pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-15). D.S. Wilson asked the following:

Impressions when hearing story:

- Man was healed
- No one to help me
- Do you want to be healed?
- Who did this for you?
- Who else has been waiting 38 years for healing?

When Jesus asked him if he wanted to be healed, he gave excuses, but didn't ask to be healed. His excuses were no one to help me, can't get there at the right time, someone is ahead of me, etc.

“We may have churches that have been laying in the same condition (unhealed) for 38 years. If so, what do these churches need for healing?”

- Trust
- Our perception beyond our walls
- Not acting in harmony

We believe that when Jesus shows up, there is change (healing). How ready are we (the church) for change (healing)?

- Depends on our self-awareness. How sick do we think we are? Do we see ourselves as needing healing?
- Need to let go of our arrogance/superiority.

What would be your prayer to God for CUMC? For healing/change?

- That we have eyes to see people to love
- Need vigilance about keeping our eyes open (see opportunities/needs)
- Help without doing harm
- Follow John Wesley's admonition to “do all the good you can, by all the means you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, for as long as ever you can.”

Conclusion – This conversation has been held with 70 other congregations in the Harpeth District. Next year D.S. Wilson will want to hear “surprising ways God has shown up” at CUMC.

Opening Remarks for Charge Conference - Jay Carnes

Clergy Compensation Recommendations – Lisa Stuckey, SPRC Chairperson: SPRC has worked with Finance Committee to adjust staff salaries to be competitive (4% increase).

Moved office and finance staff to 40 hours per week. The pension fund budget amount has been increased. The staff handbook has been revised and has been reviewed by the church's attorney. Recommendation from SPRC to approve compensation packages. Recommendation passed unanimously.

Lay Leadership Report – Elizabeth Oliphant/Bryan Richardson, Lay Leaders: Gave an overview of the work done by the Lay Leadership Development Committee – worked to get diverse representation in leadership roles, wanted to include younger adults in leadership roles, increased committees from 6 to 9 members, asked committees to select vice-chairpersons who will become chairperson next year. Staggered Lay Leader terms – Bryan Richardson rotating off and Kevin Stefano taking his position next year. Included Children Ministry Team as part of Lay Leadership Development process. Overall, people asked to participate were very receptive. This showed an excitement to participate and support CUMC. The roster of 2024 lay leadership was presented and recommended by the Lay Leadership Development Committee for approval. Recommendation was passed unanimously.

Candidacy Continuance - Chris Haynes: Reviewed Aimee Cox's Certified Candidacy Renewal form (attached). Aimee has completed preaching classes and field work under Mark Price's mentorship. In the spring, she will be taking additional courses with an anticipated graduation in Spring 2025. Chris Haynes made a recommendation to approve Aimee's continuation of her candidacy (Note: This will be done annually while she is going through her candidacy program). Recommendation passed unanimously.

Acknowledgement of Lay Servant – Chris Haynes: Velma Bradley is a certified Lay Servant and has been leading a Companions in Christ class at CUMC and other activities. Chris Haynes recommended affirming Velma as Certified Lay Servant. Recommendation passed unanimously.

Pastor's Report - Chris Haynes: Senior Pastor report attached. Chris reviewed his time as senior pastor at CUMC. Appreciates CUMC being a place of joy and fun; working with the talented staff and having an outward looking congregation. Told of the Teddy Bear Ministry as an example of a member having an idea and the congregation supporting the idea. Also, told of a family sharing a Teddy Bear with a waitress who was having a tough time - a small act that shows a lot of love.

Roll Call of the Saints - Chris Haynes: The list of baptisms, new members and those who transferred their membership was reviewed. Also, the names of the members who have passed in 2023 were read out, followed up by a prayer by Chris Haynes (See attached list).

Additional Announcements from D.S. Wilson: General Conference in 2024. Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference after General Conference when new bishop will be appointed to Tennessee/Western Kentucky Conference in July and will start in September. Harpeth District may be re-organized.

Adjournment of Charge Conference: 7:00 p.m.

Administrative Council Meeting:

Approval of 2024 Budget – Debbie Jancke, Bryan Richardson & Janice Boyko: The recommended budget from the Finance Committee was presented and discussed. 2024 Recommended budget is \$1,159,722.00 (a 6.4% increase over 2023). The Finance Committee is projecting a \$78,000 surplus (7% of Budget) at the end of 2023. The surplus will be set

aside for unbudgeted priorities in 2024. In 2023, a Building Superintendent has been added. Cash on hand represents 4 months of expenses. CUMC is debt free. The Finance Committee recommended approval of the 2024 Budget. Motion to approve – David Bradley, Second – Elizabeth Oliphant. Recommendation passed unanimously.

2024 Evans Fund Grant Recipients – Jay Carnes: 2024 Grant Recipients have been selected by Evans Fund Committee (attached). Staff has reviewed and also recommends. Motion to approve. Recommendation passed unanimously.

Congregational Care and Welcoming Committees recognized - Jay Carnes: Stephen Middlebrooks and Pauline Rogers have shown outstanding leadership in 2023 in seeing a need, forming the Congregational Care and Welcoming Committees to address CUMC's needs. Jay wanted to both acknowledge and thank them for their leadership in these areas.

Office Staff recognized – Jay Carnes: Michelle Fredenhagen and Alexandra Crocker (CUMC's office staff) have been outstanding hires and are doing terrific work serving the CUMC community. Jay wanted to acknowledge and thank them for their outstanding service.

Administrative Council Meeting Adjourned