

**Manchaca United Methodist Church (MUMC)**  
**Church Council Meeting Minutes**  
**April 23, 2020 - 7:00 PM**

**Presiding:** Rev. David McNitzky, Sr. Pastor and Rick Bowman, Church Council Chair

**Present:**

Ron Mize	Brice Custer	Beth Watkins
Lance Lunsford	Emily Repp	Malcolm Nelson
Mary Looney	Loretta Loyd	Ken Kattner
Dave Bourell	Tonia Norman	Leah Hixon
Emmett Thomason	Ron Hawkins	Leslie Piggott
*Kim Carroll	*Chansin Esparza	*Jason Esparza
*Leigh Anne Moore		
<i>*staff</i>		

**Absent:**

Ed Engleking	Gary Carpenter	Clint Wilson
Jennifer Bautista	Linda Hawkins	

Rick Bowman, MUMC Council Chair called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:05 PM and asked for a recording secretary from among the members. Loretta Loyd volunteered to record the meeting minutes.

**Devotional and Opening Prayer:** Rick shared a devotional “Be Joyful in Hope” and prayer.

**February 20, 2020 Minutes:** Rick presented the minutes of the February 20, 2020, council meeting and motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Leslie Piggott seconded, and the minutes were approved via unanimous vote.

**Finance Report:** Dave Bourell distributed **three** documents; **1)** Q1 Financial Report: Income ~\$212k, in line with budget and more than last year. COVID-19 will impact Q2 a. CDC has asked for rent deferral and b. Jazzercise (we will owe Jazzercise ½ month for paid in full March rent)—these rentals total ~\$5k/month. Beginning in March, revenue went down 50%; not sure about April or Easter offering. We are currently asking for offering during the live-streamed services. **2)** Q1 detailed income/expense spreadsheet that compares to budget and 2019. Reviewing the expenses for the quarter, the big issue was an unexpected \$15-20k in FLC A/C repair (see top page 3). Q1 budget was \$10k but decided to take out of budget since expenses were down in other areas. On paper about -7,000.. If not for this expense, we under spent ~\$5,000. The 2019 Grover Alexander donation that was rolled over 2020, prorated helped us to have a ~\$1,400 surplus. Still a long road to returning to normal, but we are in good shape overall. Jason asked what have you noticed as the biggest financial change in the last month and a half? Dave, not sure that we will continue at 50% down, but our pledged income is up, we have a significantly large number of people pledging; people continuing to honor their pledges, is something you can’t predict. We are still in fairly good shape. Tonia anticipates that costs of utilities for the building will be down. When we see April, we will understand better. Are their other costs for virtual meetings? Many folks are volunteering tech support and working to control expenses. **3)** CARES Act--SBA-Payroll Protection Program (PPP) Summary. We applied and were approved to receive a PPP federal loan that is totally forgivable as long as we retain all of our employees that are currently on payroll. The loan closed today. This loan will give us \$71k to help pay

staff through June 30, 2002. Lance L. asked about the larger Methodist church having a grant program that could help in this situation. Pastor David does not think that there is money to help the local church stay open and make payroll.

**Trustees Team Report:** Beth Watkins presented for trustees. A/C repairs for the 2 FLC units. Clint and Gary did some pre-work that saved some money for the A/C repairs. Pam McNitzky had arranged prior to the stay at home, steam cleaning of the FLC kitchen and a deposit was made. Fearing that the business might close and we would lose our deposit, the project was completed as planned. People had noted that the warmer table did not work in the FLC; the electrician fixed the 220 plug and it is now working. We had elevator and Fire Marshal inspections; there were compliance issues with both. We have been using this time to work through the compliance issues. We will have to hire an electrician for some of them. We also have an issue with the electric sign on FM 1626 (it is within the ROW easement that we sold to Travis County and the sign has to be moved out of the ROW by May 2020. Before we shut down, we have gotten some bids on new signage and the bids came in at \$35-37k to replace. The sign technology is outdated and costly to disconnect, move and reconnect when it is using such out of date technology. We thought it might be best to disconnect the sign and move it back closer to the building, but still in front, not hook it up to electric to have a sign out front during construction. Once road construction is complete, we can reassess where a sign will be most effective and what type of sign that should be. Jason asked if it is a discussion for another day. It is a delay for now, but we will need to refocus when things return to normal. We hope that a new sign would be better than what we have currently. Leigh Anne—what would the cost to move the sign be? Beth said waiting on electrician to weigh in on cost to move the sign. The technology is old and we wonder do folks even see the sign. **Tonia Norman moved that we unplug the sign and move closer to the church, Leslie Piggott seconded, majority agreed to move forward.** Beth finished her report in a second reference to signage; before the stay home order, we were looking at interior signs directing folks to East and West doors, but soon after the building closed and we did not receive bids.

**SPRC/PPR Report:** Mary Looney reported that SPRC met on February 24, 2020 and approved the raises to staff from the contingency funds discussed in the February 20 council meeting. There had not been any staff raises in the years 2017, 2018, and 2019. The raises were prorated based on the hire date of the employee and were awarded to full-time staff, Director of Christian Education; Director of Music and Fine Arts, and Office Manager/Webmaster; and the part-time business manager and organist/music accompanist. We also adjusted the custodial staff salaries, Danny was changed to supervisor and given a raise and a raise was given to our part-time custodian, Eli. We lost a custodian in late February and recently hired Eli's brother, Carlos. When the shutdown occurred, Pastor David asked if we could keep paying the custodial staff and keep them working. Dave has asked about their workload. Mary stated that we would continue at their regular hours and they are working on areas of the campus that need improvement. Tonia asked when was our last hire? Pastor David stated March 10 and Dave confirmed payroll.

**Purpose Team Report:** Ron Hawkins talked about mission activities, we got the \$6,100 grant again this year, but it will not be available next year.

The Akins High School seniors all but two are going to college.

Backpack food went to Marbridge

Pastor Chansin has been thinking about our online offerings; such as Nourishment at Noon. We have purchased a radio transmitter so if we wanted to do drive-in church, we have that potential. We have started a Facebook group; a Facebook page is the church projecting information; but a group is where

everyone can post and gives a larger forum. We are getting a lot of engagement in the livestreamed services. Our highest engagement was 8:30 am Easter. 88 at one time 4,000 minutes. Women 65 or over are the predominant attendee. Palm Sunday FLC service was second highest 65 folks. Top Nourishment at Noon is when Pastor David has his dog with him. This week Pastor Chansin downloaded and our livestreamed offerings on Utube. Looking at "What are our goals for the future.?" She wants us to have a quality offering in this interim time. Has been on maternity leave the past four weeks, but fully engaged.

Kim presented Christian Education. She is keeping a level of connection going that is great considering we are under a stay at home order. Trying to finish confirmation classes and how will that look. She would like to start something with preteens to give them a way to connect. Trying to decide what summer is going to look like. Not sure how it will roll out; if VBS is canceled, we have a head start on next year.

Pastor Jason: having a difficult time in balancing our connection time during this new normal. Lance thinks the small groups have been effective, at least for his family and would like to encourage small group participation. No one solution meets all needs, but the small group was really effective in helping his family through a difficult time. Kim said about half the groups are meeting right now. Pastor David has added to his groups, but also lost some that were attending live. How many of those attendees are Sunday School teachers that no longer have a class to teach? Unsure.

**Pastors Report:** A few thoughts. One of the major experiences of God's people in the Bible is that of Exile - the experience of being away from home. The first five books of the Bible (the major section which is called Torah) end with the people outside of the Promised Land. The Jewish Bible has a different order than our Old Testament and it has II Chronicles as the last book in their Bible - a book which finds the people again in Exile away from Israel. Though the New Testament opens with the people in Israel, they are enslaved to the Romans; hardly an experience of home. Today while we live under a stay at home order, we are in exile. Things are hardly as we'd wish them to be. However, two things are true about exile; the first is that God is still with us, and secondly, one day we will return home to our Promised Land.

This is also the experience of our church. Right now we are in exile away from our gathering place and our church family. However, God is still working among us and we look forward to returning home. We should note that the books of Ezra and Nehemiah describe the return from exile to a home that wasn't quite what the people remembered. They faced difficulty and disappointment. We should expect that on our return our church won't exactly be like it was when we were last there. When we return, it will not be the same as when we left on March 8. It will be different than we anticipate it to be. We need to be prepared for all eventualities.

I would like to form three task forces:

**Exile Task Force:** To help us see and share God more effectively while we are away; what do we need to do better? How can we improve worship online? We are missing people. Jason brought it up. How can we be more effective during this time? Jason Esparza and Ron Mize will lead, Leslie Piggott and Tonia Norman will help. (Tonia noted one thing is to list/inventory existing resources and identify gaps.) Once back in the building, this team will shift focus to six months down the road. Call them Daniel committee (he had his visions).

**Homecoming (Return from Exile) Task Force:** Their job will be to help us return in ways that are healthy, safe, God honoring and missional. Chansin Esparza and Rick Bowman will lead; Kim Carroll,

Dave Bourell, & Leah Hixon will help. They will work on worship and gathering logistics and the second grouping: Faith Formation; Connections and missional, Sunday School, small groups etc. Once we are back, is it permanent or not. Once we have successfully returned this team will shift focus to 18 months down the road. Call them the John committee.

**Prayer, Reflection, Intercession (Month of May) Task Force:** Their focus will be praying for discernment and wisdom from God to help us navigate these unfamiliar and choppy waters. Ron Mize will lead and Mary Looney and Loretta Loyd will help.

Pastor David noted that tomorrow's newsletter may bring more folks participate in the different task forces, but still want to keep them small.

### **Other Items**

**Campus Security Team:** Campus Security team formed at the February 20, 2020 council meeting did meet but is no longer a priority; will reconvene in the future after the return to the building.

**Methodist Men:** Were going to have a clothing drive, but we need to meet via zoom; not much happening right now. We can still maintain social distancing to do the clothing drive, but we still plan to have it. In the early summer, the Methodist Men's group will host the quarterly breakfast in the newly cleaned FLC kitchen

**Adjourn:** Pastor David closed the meeting at 8:45pm with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

*Loretta Loyd*