

**Minutes of Dixboro UMC Leadership Council Zoom Meeting
June 22, 2023 7:00pm**

Present in Person: Tom Little, Chair; Patty Burns, Chair Faith Community-Fellowship & Hospitality; Charles Engle, Financial Secretary; Kenn Scheffer, Chair of Trustees; Jayne Worthy-Howlett, President- Dixboro United Women in Faith (UWF a.k.a. DUMW); Barbara Scheffer, Lay Leader; Peggy Moran, Chair Missions Ministry; Cathy Freeman, Chair of Caring Ministry; Rev. Mary Hagley; Carl Johns, member at large; Rev. Jeanne Garza, clergy. Natlie Bergman, Harold, Barb Scheffer

Present on ZOOM: Randy Hucks, Treasurer; Briana Murphy, Social Justice Coordinator.

Present as church member: Tom Freeman

Opening prayer: Pastor Jeanne – Gives thanks for our time together as church and community. Please lead us Holy Spirit.

Randy – update:

\$110,000 in general fund. We are in a better financial position than most of the time he has served as treasurer.

Revenue is lumpy – two big bequests have put us in a good position. We spend \$200,000 – \$210,000 a year and bring in a little more than that.

New Children's Minister

Brie – Brent says no one has applied. Where is the job description posted – website, district. Can we put a link on Facebook?

Working parenthood difficult so we really need good children's programming

Trustees

Kenn – flooring not finished yet, there is a problem with the corners. The flooring guy is attempting to glue the corners.

Repaired garage door for \$1,400

Number 3 furnace will need work before winter – new filters, etc

Still working on security system for the doors

First addition needs paint on the outside – initial quote was \$13,000

Carl and Kenn will do some carpentry in the youth room.

\$1,750 for tree trimming for safety.

Tom: Zach is marking the electronics for the purpose of moving in and outside during the summer.

Cathy – nothing new

Peggy – Missions: working on plans for next year, at the moment working on baskets for new mothers (July 2) and backpacks.

Patty has Trivia night that will raise money for missions will go to – backpacks

Peggy Trivia night on July 14 – for backpacks and on August 25 at 7 pm. Andy Begnino is a comedian on the green - \$10 a ticket with paypal and sell tickets at the door. August 5th

Have someone at every door greeting parishioners and guests every Sunday.

Jayne – rummage sale: There is a lot of help this time, proceeds will go to House by the Side of the Road. Barb found more volunteers to work, Facebook used to bring in donations and advertise.

July 30th hot dogs – Kimbles will bring a grill and do the cooking.

Plan to have Sunday fundraisers during the social hour.

Barb – good feedback on laity links

Pastor Jeanne – General Conference in 2024 April 23 – May 4th, when Jeanne first came we wanted her to go. Does the church still want her to go? It is in Charlotte, NC The cost is \$2,000 – staff parish issue. It has not been voted on and it is worldwide so it could be contentious.

Barb – Carol Burnett reports an issue of moving to outdoors service – difficult walking on older folks. Maybe let older people sit in the church watching a youtube broadcast of service.

Cliff father of Brie could help coordinate senior activities with Roberta King

Tom Freeman:

Tom is representing Dixboro Village Green (DVG) the non-profit. Pastors in the past have wanted to divest the Green because of liability and the costs of upkeep. The school was in bad shape. The non-profit was founded to reduce the liability of the Green in 2012. It was not to have a Farmer's Market, that came up later. The DVG provided a mechanism to receive grants that the church could not get. The Green was a way to bring people together. The DVG is only 25% church members when started it was 50%. The DVG has made a lot of improvements. Superior township did not have a park north of Geddes. The school roof does not leak and pavilion built. \$320,000 in investments since DVG started.

We can have a service in the pavilion now, but need windows, septic, lot of money needs to be spent. In 1958 the Green was acquired as an asset. Difficult to maintain by a small church, so considering selling it to Superior township as a park.

Appraisal authorized at the end of April – it is a difficult topic. The Green value as open public park is low at \$46,000 dollars. We could rezone and it could be used as something else.

Tom wants sidewalks, parking improved, septic, water and for it to be used as a public park.

It is not meant to be exclusive – we want to still have a church sign, if it belongs to someone else we won't have one. Require township to keep it as it is. We do not want pickle ball courts.

We have an outdoor setting that is hard to replicate. Church representatives need to sit down with the appraisers and discuss.

Costs are high for the improvements that are needed.

Kenn Schwartz wanted a schedule – the decision needs to be made when the most people are here.

Tom – logically the sale of the Green will not impact the church. If we ensure that we can use it but do not have to pay for it.

If the transaction does not happen the town may stop cutting the grass. The town leadership may leave soon. The current town clerk and treasurer are in favor of the idea.

Contracts bind property beyond current owners. Tom would like us to continue the activities we have now.

The township wants to provide recreational opportunities for the Northern part of the town. When the nonprofit came around it was mentioned that you have a dozen parks with programming.

Township did not spend any covid relief funds, we need to advocate for ourselves.

Brie – how do we move forward with the sale of the Green?

Kenn - Sale of property is allowed in Book of Discipline

Pastor Jeanne – will look into steps with regard to sale of property.

Cathy – moved for a proposal to move forward, it was seconded and approved. Few abstained as they want more information.

Cathy – moved for a task force to be created to move this forward. Tom, Kenn, Carl, and Tom are on the task force.

Jayne – there is misinformation about the dissociation. Our church has not decided on this yet.

Closing prayer: Patty Burns – thank you Lord, lead us and bless us as we move forward... Amen.