

Accountable Leadership Board News

March 16, 2020

Welcome to the year 2020, such as it is. The world is in great turmoil at this time due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Accountable Leadership Board has been discussing the impact of the virus on church operation and evaluating alternative ways and means to provide church services to you. Regular services were held on Sunday, March 15, 2020 with a baptism celebration taking place. Communion was celebrated in an alternative manner to limit the possibility of person to person contamination.

United Methodist Church reorganization - Pastor Clarissa said there were 78 attendees – the largest to date for these sessions. Delegation meetings will continue, and more information will be provided to congregation when available.

In a meeting on March 15 of Pastor Clarissa, Stan Schneider (Accountable Leadership Board chair), Bob Krell (Lay Leader), Richard Slade (Trustee chair), Kaonou Latham (SPRC Chair), Ellen Johnson (SPRC, Lay Servant) and John Childers (Technology) was decided that 5th Ave. UMC would proceed in the following manner to provide worship opportunity:

- All in person worship activities are suspended through April 14, 2020
- Services will be provided via the web page with a link to Facebook and/or YouTube. Initially some of the first services will be from our archives until live recording is mastered. Written copies of services will be available from office.
- Small groups of 5th Ave. – all in person small group activities suspended, Pastor's book study will continue using email and phone.
- Harvest House is cancelled.
- In person visits – at home, at assisted living facilities and the hospital are suspended – please use phone or email
- Outside group meetings at 5th Ave.- will be held at the discretion of the group
- The church building – may be closed at times when no church activities are taking place.
- **< If you need to stop at church for something please call ahead to make sure the office is open. >**
- Please remember to continue meeting your giving commitments. Items can be mailed into church, dropped off if office is open, or electronic giving is available (contact Alana).
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In January and February, a Stewardship campaign was conducted. As of 3.10.2020, 77 pledges were received for a value of \$176,842. At this time, we are still hopeful that we will receive additional pledges to further meet our operational needs. A very grateful thank you to all members who have already submitted pledges.

In 2019 our investment funds at UMF did exceptionally well. The returns for the start of 2020 have been disappointing but all who invest knows that the market fluctuates. The impact of the coronavirus has been substantial and could not have been planned for.

We thank Kaonou Latham, the Sunday School team and especially the children for presenting a great Christmas program to the delight of the congregation.

The Accountable Leadership Board has continued to get the van we purchased ready for use hopefully starting in April. Policy issue continue to be developed and ironed out.

Our town hall meetings will continue with the next meeting to be scheduled in April. Thanks to Ed Fowell for his presentations to the congregation in March.

As we all know Pastor Clarissa was looking forward to a Renewal Leave this fall. As of now that has been set aside as Pastor has been asked to work with our Bishop on a special assignment that will include a trip to Sweden for a week-long conference. Please keep Pastor Clarissa and Martin in your prayers.

Marolyn Kell has compiled the information necessary for 5th Ave. UMC to qualify as a Rainbow Covenant church honored by Conference for outstanding outreach participation.

Pastor Clarissa, Trustees and the Accountable Leadership Board have been actively working with our attorney (Doug Fitzgerald) to process how to receive some gifts to 5th Ave. that have been come from members who have passed away. 5th Ave. intends to honor the wishes of the donors to the best of our abilities in concert with the needs of our congregation.

Trustees are busy working on many church projects. With the help of Jerry Goehring, the Church was able to purchase a very good gently used commercial stove for the kitchen. It has been installed and is working well. Many more projects are being addressed dealing with Church water issues, tucking pointing the stone face of the Church, water drainage issues, replacing lower steel door and many more. A new high efficiency furnace has been approved for the parsonage as the current 37-year-old furnace has failed. Technology, as part of Trustees, has been moving forward on updating computers, sound equipment and presentation systems necessary for worship service.

Eric Nelson has volunteered to become the new church treasurer and is currently learning the ropes with the help of current treasurer Chuck Seeger till he retires again sometime in the future.

Also, the Accountable Leadership Board's Guiding Principles document has been updated to bring our bidding and contract section up to the appropriate level with current prices.

Stan Schneider

Chair, Accountable Leadership Board