

Berkeley UMC Leadership Council Minutes – September 21, 2023

Leadership Council members present:

Polly Aranda
J.D. Moore
Chachi Trevino
Annie Worsham (via phone)
Letha Peters (via Zoom)
Kelly Kirkland
Brett Field
Betty Barnes
Patty Gaston
Bill Carter

Others present:

Rusty Teeter
Jim Barnes
Ray & Roz Hodson
Buddy & Sandy Cox
Rachel Trudell
Susan Curtis

Packet Handouts:

Agenda
Financial reports for August 2023
Leadership Chair Report
Pastor's Reports from Rusty and Vikki
2020 Vision for Berkeley UMC

1. J.D. called the meeting to order shortly after 7:00 pm.
2. Rusty offered a brief scripture reflection on Psalm 50:23.
3. Ongoing Business
 - A. **Minutes** – The minutes of the August meeting were circulated by email earlier in the week. Chachi moved that the emailed minutes be approved; Patty seconded the motion, and it was **approved unanimously**.
Minutes structure. J.D. explained that Bill (as acting secretary) has agreed to circulate draft minutes to the Leadership Council within 72 hours after each meeting. Then the Council members will provide any corrections and/or additions within 72 hrs of the draft being distributed. The secretary will then be allowed 24 hrs after the comment period closes to incorporate comments and circulate the “final” version. That will result in final minutes being available within 7 days of each meeting for sharing with the congregation. [Secretary’s note: I believe further corrections can still be made at the next meeting, resulting in “corrected” minutes for the official record.]
 - B. **SPRC Report.**

- i. Pledges have been received to support the Spanish language ministry through calendar 2023, and this fall's stewardship campaign will incorporate an ask for funding for that ministry through 2024.
- ii. Guidance is being sought on policies governing the pastor's discretionary fund.
- iii. Kellie Brewer has asked that Berkeley UMC agree to be the congregation to recommend her continuing candidacy for ordination in the United Methodist Church. There was discussion about her recently losing her position working at another UM church in Austin, which declined to sponsor her candidacy. Rusty explained that Berkeley UMC's action would only involve going on record in support of her candidacy and would not involve any further obligations. Kelly moved approval and Brett seconded the motion. **The request was unanimously approved.**

C. **Financial Report.** A meeting of Pastor Rusty, Polly, Vikki, Letha, and J.D. to discuss this fall's stewardship campaign has been scheduled for September 28. Polly noted that for August, expenses only exceeded income by about \$140, much less than in recent months. She noted that BUMC has reserve funds that could be drawn from if the general fund is depleted, including \$8,400 which came from the sale of Duke Energy stock that had been gifted to BUMC years ago. Polly also announced that she is retiring as BUMC Treasurer as of the end of 2023 and recommended that staff and leadership begin considering potential successors to that office this year, as she would like to have time to orient a new person. She is also planning to write down her procedures and guidance to benefit her successor. The leadership gave Polly an extended applause for her diligent work as Treasurer for the last 8 years.

D. **Trustees Report.** Bill reviewed a spreadsheet of cost estimates that the Trustees have assembled for several security measures under consideration. Kelly arranged quotes for the door reinforcement measures and put together that part of the cost information. The priority measures involve reinforcement of some or all of the all-wooden exterior doors in the sanctuary and classroom buildings. Since the particulars of this and other measures have not been fully vetted with the childcare program and not fully laid out to the security team and leadership ahead of this meeting, Bill recommended that the leadership council defer the matter. He committed to preparing within a week a more detailed account of the security measures and costs under consideration and circulating it to the childcare program, BUMC trustees, security team, and leadership, for possible action at the October meeting, as well as a condensed version for the Buzz. He agreed to recommendations to present the potential actions to Church Mutual as well to determine what effects they might have in reducing our liability insurance premiums. Finally, Rachel noted that people have wandered into the sanctuary building during Spanish language services recently, seeming to be interested mainly in getting items from the food pantry. It was suggested that

we post a sign at the front door noting the hours of operation of the food pantry, and Bill suggested that the front narthex door could be left locked during that service if the narthex door to the courtyard were left unlocked.

- i. **Action items.** Within a week, Bill will issue a detailed report on options and costs for security measures under consideration and investigate possible reduction in insurance costs. Staff will consider signage regarding the operating schedule of the food pantry.
4. **Pastors' Reports and Spiritual Care Team Update.** Written reports from Rusty and Vikki were included in the packet. Rusty announced that the BUMC stewardship campaign will be October 8 – 29. He also noted that Dr. Marcus Freeman, our District Superintendent, will be at BUMC on Monday October 30 at 6:30 to talk about “Why I Am United Methodist.” The congregation is invited. [I may have missed some specific reference to Spiritual Care Team activities.]
5. **Vision Document.** After discussion led by J.D. of the vision document circulated earlier this week, he submitted it to the group for approval. Polly moved approval and Brett seconded the motion, and **approval was unanimous** by a show of hands.
6. **New Business.** The Nominations Committee will be meeting on Monday September 25 and will begin consideration of the upcoming vacancy for Treasurer. Ray Hodson and Sandy Cox spoke in favor of reconsidering the current leadership council structure as adopted under the Healthy Congregations Initiative a few years ago. The primary concern is that the current structure is composed almost entirely of members of the Finance Team, SPRC, and Trustees, and ministry groups are not represented as they were previously. This was noted as a topic for further consideration, but no specific actions were taken.
7. **Calendar Review.** A printed church calendar for October was circulated for comments and corrections.

The next Leadership Council meeting will be October 19, 2023.

8. **Adjournment** at 8:15 pm.