

Rush United Methodist Church  
Leadership Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 11, 2023

Present: Erin Bills, Geoff Furman, Pastor Todd Goddard, Cindy Gray, Dan Kingsley, Michelle Prok, Steve Williams

Meeting opened by Steve Williams.

**Loving:** Joys and concerns shared and a prayer from Pastor Todd.

**Learning:** Informed to Transform 13 Laity Development Online Classes being held. SPRC training attended by Erin Bills and George Gray. Trustees training attended by Cindy Gray. All felt classes were good background information for their assigned positions. Upcoming trainings include Intentional Discipleship, which Erin Bills and Cindy Gray are registered to attend.

**Leading:** Reviewed status of existing Ministry Action Plans

- Capital Stewardship Drive: Michelle reported that giving so far is on track. Some pledging families have left the church, so donations will be less than originally planned. June is the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the campaign, and Michelle will update congregation on the plans.
- “A Way Forward” campaign: After the meetings in fall committee felt there was no reason to make a change at the current time, but to wait for UMC vote in 2024. Rush Church will currently remain with UMC as an “inclusive congregation.”
- Coffee Shop collaboration with HCS’ Pieter’s Family Life Center: Pastor Todd reported that the program is going strong. Stated that we can close out this MAP.
- Intentional Discipleship: After Erin and Cindy attend zoom training, they will meet, with Michelle Prok, to create a MAP, as the program aligns with the direction that the Nurture group is working on.
- Nurture, Outreach, and Witness:
  - Met with various individuals / leaders in congregation to gather input
  - Hospitality events going well, but still need someone to greet people at the door on Sunday mornings. Erin stated that she and her husband would do this as they are on their way back north.
  - Cards are being mailed to families who have not attended recently, and that has been well-received. Thank you to Richard Nereau.
  - Recommendations based on findings:
    - Find additional ways to promote the church and church events: social media, flyers, signs at church. Greeters at church door could hand out flyers listing services and upcoming events.
    - Create a “big” community event (water fun,...), possibly the same weekend as the Rush Firemen’s Carnival and Super Sale, to increase attendance. Hand out church flyers.
    - Update church flyer
    - Move to 1 service on Sundays, beginning the Sunday after Easter, until Rally Day in the fall. 2 Sundays /month would be traditional services, with choir, communion, and anointing. 2 Sundays / month would be contemporary with band, no communion. *The purpose would be to get together as one church, work together to build the congregation as a family.*

- Leadership agreed that moving to one service has merit, but is a Worship Committee decision. Steve will host a Worship Committee meeting on Zoom, Monday, 3/13. If decision is approved, Michelle offered to present the proposal to the congregation at upcoming church services. Information will also be presented in the church newsletter, and in the bulletin – as many ways as possible.
- Steve currently posts on Facebook. Will post all upcoming events if contacted with information.
- Pastor Todd stated that Pittsford Presbyterian Church currently does “Facebook sponsored posts” about Holy Week services. Is this something we might consider?

### **Committee Reports:**

- **Finance** (Income/Expense, Fund Balance, Budget, and Meeting Minutes are found at: <https://www.rushumc.com/documents>):
  - Through December 31, 2022  
Giving \$3,393 more than budget  
Total Revenues \$24,340 less than budget (less \$30,000 Carry over PPP)  
Total Expenses \$10,050 less than budget  
Cash on Hand: \$362,458  
Endowment \$732,327
  - 2022 Audit, due March 15, 2023 (Spencer)
  - 2022 Statistical Reports, due March 15, 2023 (Barb)
- **SPRC:**
  - Annual performance appraisals complete
  - Will be working on updating job descriptions
  - Thank you to George Gray and Don Kingsley for providing rides
  - Erin will check in with staff and SPRC members when she returns.
- **Trustees**
  - Capital Projects in progress:
    - Recovering sanctuary chairs – fabric and materials purchased
    - Flooring in lobby and café – Lima Carpet will install carpet tiles in area. Committee finalizing material choices, then order will be sent out. Potentially installation will begin at end of April, which is the earliest date Lima Carpet had available.
    - Drainage issues being reviewed – this is a committee priority. Committee is gathering information in order to move forward.
    - Next project will be to stain and repair (as needed) church siding. This project will begin as soon as funds are available.
  - Budgeted Projects in progress:
    - New tankless hot water heater installed
    - Boiler ordered and scheduled to be installed in May
    - HVAC replacement is next project on agenda. Finalizing plans on what equipment is best for the church both fiscally and environmentally. Will then gather bids in order to begin work. Working to make sure project is completed before cooling season begins.
  - Church Spring Clean-up Work Day scheduled for Saturday, March 25, 8:30am – noon.
- **Worship**
  - Draft worship outline posted on church website
  - “Skit on a Stick” going well. People enjoy being part of the service
  - Worship committee will meet March 13 to review N.O.W. proposal

- **Children, Youth, Families**
  - Ladies' Lunch Bunch and Community Dinners going well.
  - Reception of new members: Raymer Ottman, date/time TBD
  - Starting seven "God and Church" classes after Easter
  - VBS: Alethea will need help, as she is dealing with health issues. Erin offered to help and/or co-chair. She has led VBS before so has experience.
- **Missions**
  - All shut-ins are assigned a sponsor (Ruth Baldoni, Walt & Jean Banker, Mary Anne Brice, Mary Callerame August, Trudy Corio, Craig Crowell, John & Mary Ann David, Jim Hughes, Meg & Kevin Kinnally, Bessie Luft, Durwood Raplee, Gisela Rice, Betty Stover, David Phillips, Ernie Harrington, Dave Smith, Don & Gail Barrett, Buzz & Joan Grimm)
  - Rush UMC hosting Heritage Christian Services and FaithInclusionNetwork.org online conference on theology and disability, Friday 3/10/23
  - April mission trip to South Africa in 2023
  - Uncertain about a mission trip to Guatemala in August 2023
- **Endowment**
  - Housing Allowance funds invested in CD at 4%, so much better return on investment. Thank you to Spencer and Barb for handling this.

#### **Denomination:**

- Update on our new bishop: Bishop Hector A Burgos
  - <https://www.facebook.com/HectorABurgos>
  - New way of doing things, new way of appointments.
  - District Superintendent jobs will change in June
    - Ted Anderson will retire as DS
- Todd serving as Mentor for Enoch Renzhza, local pastor with congregation at Aldersgate
- Ordination written material editor for Dan Bradley. He passed his oral interviews and is being recommended for ordination this year!

#### **Genesee Area Campus Ministries**

- Started new relationship serving students at RIT
- Discussion about the meaning of "Queer" identity and theology

#### **Personal:**

- December 21, 2022. Same day surgery. Successful!
- February 3, 2023, Left Knee Replacement
  - Rehabilitation ongoing, expect outpatient PT through the end of May
  - Thanks for all the accommodations, support, and prayers

Meeting closed at 9:58am