

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE

## MINUTES OF 4TH MEETING, OCTOBER 18, 2010

This roundtable was the least well attended of those held so far., but the discussion was fruitful.

Dr. Henderson offered a prayer and then presented a summary from past meetings. He read the bolded conclusions and action assignments from the minutes of those meetings, although commented that he was not sure all issues had been addressed.

Dr. Henderson introduced the Missional Vital Signs that we will have to report on to the Conference in the future. These are:

1. Passionate Worship, which is measured by average weekly worship attendance: ours increased from 252 in 2009 to 267 in 2010 (through September).
2. Radical Hospitality, which refers to total professions and re-affirmations of faith; in 2009 we had 8 and in 2010 (through September) we had 16.
3. Intentional Discipleship, which is the average number attending weekly small groups focusing on discipling; in our case, 32 in 2009 and 79 so far in 2010.
4. Salty service, which is the average number who weekly volunteer one hour beyond the church family; estimated at 88 for 2010 through September.
5. Extravagant Generosity, which reports the total and percentage of Missional giving for others; ours was 13%, of \$81,647 out of a budget of \$640,529.

Tom Young brought the discussion back to the need for an adequate operational budget. He said some are concerned that the aging population of our church means a smaller number of people have to contribute larger amounts of money. He said this could be a reflection of the economy but it could also result from changing demographics in the church. He asked what our current deficit was.

Jeff Cheek responded by saying the deficit presently was \$40,000. He projects the deficit this year will be between \$20,000 and \$50,000. He referred to the Finance Committee's discussion of the 2011 budget. Because the stewardship campaign is now underway, we will know in a couple of weeks what our pledges are likely to be for 2011. If we can get similar or slightly increased pledges, and keep expenses the same or lower than in 2010, we can get through the next year and hope the economy improves by 2012. If it doesn't, we will have to refocus our efforts.

In response to Tom's comment about the range of giving, Jeff pointed out that giving is not as top-heavy as it was in the past. Using data from Dr. Henderson, Jeff said the 175 giving units in 2010 were divided across the giving spectrum as follows:

43 giving units	\$0-\$500
17 giving units	\$501-\$3499

21 giving units	\$3500-\$5000
24 giving units	\$5001-\$10,000
5 giving units	\$10,001-\$15,000

We have 161 giving units that do not pledge. Total FUMC membership is 580.

During Dr. Henderson's time at FUMC, 125 new members have joined the church, 75 members have been lost, mostly through death, for a net gain of 50.

Referring back to the budget deficit, Dr. Henderson said there was no due date for repaying the trustees for funds transferred to the budget.

Tom Young asked whether we have a capital budget. Jeff responded that the short answer was no. Tom replied that the Finance Chair should have more say about Trustees' money. Dr. Henderson said that money under the control of the Trustees shouldn't be seen as easy money, but it is there in emergencies. Dr. Henderson said Tom was raising a good point re the capital budget. We should focus on building up the Endowment Fund.

Mary Kilgour asked how we were to get identified actions accomplished. She gave as an example that the Master's Plan sub-committee was assigned the task of producing three options for going forward with Phase II. She asked whether the committee could do that. Ole Nelson responded that at present he does not have sufficient information, but he can come close to identifying three options for Phase II. In response to questions, Ole said that the rear canopy would cost \$48,000, kitchen equipment would cost \$75,000 and the kitchen expansion would cost \$378,000. Dr. Henderson said there were lots of questions about the Master's Plan but we need not go further during this meeting since the subcommittee is working hard on these issues trying to find a middle ground.

We next went through the actions assigned in the minutes for the third roundtable discussion. The details of each action may be found in the minutes of that meeting.

1. Jeff Cheek said a small group has been formed to come up with ideas on policies for using designated funds. He referred to a paper he distributed at the Finance Committee meeting the previous week making the distinction between designated and undesignated funds and suggesting rules for timely use of designated funds could be established. Joan Van Winkle, Sally Sharpe and Mary Kilgour are on that committee and will consider these issues further.

2. Jeff spoke to Peggy Halsey and she has agreed that one mission box per quarter could be aligned with apportionment line items, and the collected proceeds used to offset budget allocations for that purpose.

3. Dr. Henderson will issue a directive that all fundraising efforts must be coordinated through the finance committee, per the UMC Book of Discipline.

4. Jeff has not yet had time to dictate the presentation he made to combine with the handouts he provided for the third roundtable discussion. The intent is to put this excellent presentation on the website, to share with all church members.

5. Three-year budget plan: still to be done. Wait until the beginning of 2011.

6. Committee or mission-level budget plan combining Trustees' funds and budget funds: still to be done. Wait until the beginning of 2011.

7. Policy covering idea of overhead charge on fundraising: still to be considered, with action with Finance.

8. Plan for increasing the Endowment Fund: still to be done by Endowment Subcommittee.

9. Jeff has changed the way our weekly revenue and expenditures are presented in the weekly bulletin to give a more realistic view of our situation. This action item may be considered completed.

10. This action item has been subsumed in 2. No further separate action is needed.

11. This action item has been subsumed in 1. No further separate action is needed.

Tom Young brought us back to a topic – succession planning – that Dr. Henderson had raised during the first Roundtable discussion. Dr. Henderson said we should give thought to the desirability and possibility of future growth; if we are united on this, it will influence the kind of pastor we need and should be looking for. Since Dr. Henderson's appointment is only until next June, we should get moving on this quickly.

Ole said that if we have a firm vision of where we want to go and a plan for how to get there, this could be a guide to the District Superintendent, Bishop and Cabinet, who make ministerial appointments. Dr. Henderson thought the DS was critical to this issue and understands our needs and that we have not been served well in the past.

Ole thought it was unfortunate that the Master's Plan had referred only to our renovation plans. We really should have a general Master's Plan that covers precisely what our priority ministries are, what our plan is to accomplish these ministries and what our budget needs are to get there.

We should be thinking about goals that Dr. Henderson has outlined in the past, namely clearer definition of our priority ministries, a membership of 750 -1,000 people member people and a doubling of attendance at Sunday services.

It was agreed that, given holidays and other activities through the end of the year, the next roundtable should be in early 2011, possibly in conjunction with the January 28 church Council meeting. That meeting will take up a review of the actions taken to implement the proposals laid out in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round Table Minutes and summarized above as well as a collation of other issues for discussion that emerged from all of the minutes but that did not make it onto the action list. The combination of these two sources for ideas are pulled together into a five-year FUMC Mission and Goals Plan, a draft of which is appended. The draft should be discussed at the committee level prior to the January 28 Council meeting, where it will be on the agenda.

Submitted by Mary Kilgour,

Reviewed/revised by Harold Henderson,