

HTUMC Core Team Meeting
December 18, 2023

Chad Gilbertson, Tanya Alemu, Patrick Rasmussen, Paula Green, Lynnette Dobberpuhl

Opened in prayer.

Signs: new signs have arrived and look very good. Chad will be contacting some likely volunteers to put them up, hopefully by the end of the year. Patrick will get a bid for a sign with the updated logo for the front of the church (to the right of the entrance as you face it from the exterior.)

Pledges: We have received 57 pledges totaling \$196,821 to date, compared to last year when we had received 60 pledges of \$171,866. There is a potential to receive approximately 10 more pledges before the end of the year. The January Finance meeting will focus on the details of final pledges received and any decisions that may be imminently needed to avoid dipping into our critical reserves, defined as accessible funds (not designated building or memorial funds) to cover two months of expenses.

Insurance: We will be waiting until renewal in March to compare policies, using an independent agent who represents several companies including our current insurer.

United Women of Faith: The Mission and Activity Highlights for 2023 were reviewed. The UWF has made financial and material contributions to various organizations who have presented to their group, or with whom their group are connected, over and above what we as a congregation have offered. The UWF is commended by the Core Team for being a vital and active group, involved locally, regionally and nationally, and sustaining connections within Holy Trinity and with other congregations in our district and conference. They are a model for considering future small groups.

Venmo: We have hit a hiccup with the account setup. In the next weeks we will recheck current status, and revisit in January if the issue has not resolved itself.

Northland offer: Holy Trinity signed a letter of intent to say we will not negotiate with any other builders at this time. We are awaiting a meeting with the *District Committee on Building and Location* to seek approval to continue with the process. If granted, a congregational meeting (church conference) would then be scheduled to discuss and vote on the proposal to determine if we will enter into negotiations of the details with Northland, potentially moving toward an official purchase agreement. There is a three-week waiting period required after approval by the Committee before a congregational meeting can be scheduled, therefore that will be a different meeting than the currently scheduled annual church conference on January 7th (see below.)

Trustees report: Due to a furnace breakdown, we needed to replace a furnace and elected to replace an air conditioner unit that were both 30 years old. They were replaced with much more efficient models which will ultimately provide savings and be better for the environment. In addition, repairs were made to the church van totaling \$1200. We will revisit the benefit of keeping versus selling the van in 2024.

Good energy: **We are very uplifted by the activities that have built relationships within the church and with people and organizations outside the church.** Some of these activities include the blanket tying event for Emma Norton Services Nov 29, the Hope for the Holidays program in December, the UWF Christmas luncheon and stocking collection for FISH, the One Table cultural foods sharing at Fellowship

Hour on Dec 17th. Upcoming special events include Christmas Eve worship opportunities, an Intergenerational Art Event on Wed, Dec 27, small groups to be developed for the upcoming sermon series and study *Dynamite Prayer*, and soup suppers and small groups during Lent (which begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb 14.)

The annual Church Conference is scheduled for January 7. During this time the congregation will receive reports (inactive/nonresponsive membership, pastor compensation) and members will vote to affirm ministry leaders for 2024, and the preliminary budget for 2024.

New business for 2024: Fresh Expressions (ways to be involved with our community, leaders are in development), decision on keeping or selling the church van, confirm final budget, new small groups, detail the budget for marketing and online presence, explore building safety education and updates, develop opportunities to open the building for public use (e.g. Learn to Fixit Clinics)

Leadership: We are grateful that **new leaders have been identified**; four new trustees to help manage and maintain our facilities and grounds, two more team members have emerged to help with Finance, and a new missions coordinator has stepped up. **We continue to seek 2+** people to help advise in our Staff Parish Relations Team (the group that helps guide staffing decisions and support) and 2+ for Core Team.

For **short term help we are seeking** someone to coordinate soup suppers for Lent, recruiting and scheduling soup cooks, organizing what we will offer for sides, and scheduling support for set up, serving and clean up. People are often willing to volunteer to help do the jobs, but getting someone to organize, schedule and stay on top of the plan is extremely helpful for a positive experience for all.

The next Core Team meeting will be Monday, January 22, 2024 at 6:30pm.