

NFUMC Governing Board Meeting Minutes

August 15, 2023

Meeting began: 6:32 PM Meeting Ended: 9:05 PM

Minutes Recorded by : Katie Severeid

Opening Prayer: Brenda

Spiritual Formation Topic: Morning Pages from "The Artist's Way" by Julia Cameron

Leadership Development Topic: School Aged Children. Led by Meg. Very little predicted changes in school aged children over the next 10 years but there will be an increase in the 65 and older population. How can we affect and help schools?

Review of New People: In July we had 6 first time visitors, 3 returning (2nd-5th visit), including Sharon Holdel, Gretchen Biler(should this be Bixler?) and Mark and Becky Ankeny.

For the board to ponder, what data points do we want to collect regarding this topic next year, and how often do we want to review it?

Goal Review and Accountability: Casey reported that it is rare for SAS churches to have and achieve goals in their first year. How can we continue this momentum to stretch ourselves and have a "God sized" goal for next year?

Lease for the Dundee project has been sent to By His Grace.

Employee Handbook revision is on hold until September due to the difficulty of scheduling a meeting over the Summer.

Consent Calendar was approved as listed.

Discussion Item #1: Solar Panels

Presentation by John, Lou and Nicole from Collective Sun and Interfaith Solar on developing the partnership with the church to help with climate change. To date they are working with 36 other congregations, and are doing 3 installations. Under the proposal, the church continues to pay for electricity, Collective Sun owns the panels and the church leases the panels and the lease allows us to produce our own solar power. It was a long and informative meeting. Collective Sun is a solar financing company that only works with nonprofits. There are 2 options for working with Collective Sun.

Option 1: NFUMC purchases the solar panels on our own. The benefits include that this purchase is an investment in our future, we would receive a 30% tax incentive, and the church would own the system outright. However the cons include a potentially long wait to receive the tax incentive, the church is responsible for installation, maintenance etc and the church is 100% responsible for the purchase price.

Option 2: "Sun for All" solar lease from Collective Sun. Benefits include that Collective Sun vets and arranges all contractors and provides all care and maintenance. The current lease price is equal to or less than the current cost of our electric bill and we do not have to wait for a 30% tax incentive. The negatives of this option include that the lifetime savings with the

lease is less than the purchase price, prepayment is required up front to create a price-positive lease point for the system.

The lease proposal is a 28.8 KW system installed and is a 20 year lease. \$34,800 is required up front but there is a \$20,000 grant available for us. The net annual cost would then be \$14,800. This breaks down to \$5263 payments annually to lease the panels or \$443 a month. The lease has a 1.99% escalator annually. Winter months we will have a higher utility bill in the winter due to increased utility usage. PGE runs an annual collected net of power credits that runs April 1st-March 31st. This means that credits in produced power are saved up and used annually to decrease our bill. Panels will go on the roof over the sanctuary. The tile roof has already been factored in and has increased the cost, however, any additional engineering needed in the roof structure has not been determined or factored into the cost estimate yet. They still need to have a structural engineer come out and look at the scaffolding of the roof to see if it can handle the increased weight.

Cascadia Grants and Loans has a \$20,000 grant waiting for us to make a decision on this. The grant was awarded 1 year ago, and we are one of the churches specified in the grant proposal. If something changes and we do not receive the grant then there is an option to cancel the project without penalty.

Next steps would be to read the full proposal from Collective Sun, email our questions to Lou, decide in approximately 30 days and sign the lease.

Blueprints for the roof are in the back of the chancel in a cupboard. It was also proposed that we have an outside roofing company review any engineering plan from Collective Sun.

Other questions that arose after the presentation included:

1. How hard is it to upgrade the system if the church's needs change in the future?
2. Engineering questions:
 - a. What kind of weight requirements do the solar panels need?
 - b. What type of mounting is planned?

There was a consensus at the end of the presentation that more information will be needed from all parties and that this will be a topic of discussion in September.

Discussion Item 2: Budget Request Forms

The draft for the updated form was included in the packet. This will be used to help draft the budget in October. No changes were made to the form.

Discussion Item 3: Fall Retreat. September 29-30.

Bus will leave the church parking lot at 1:00. Brenda has volunteered to drive the bus. The nominations committee will be meeting in August and if they find nominees, the nominees will be invited to attend the retreat. Patrick Allen will be the facilitator.

Discussion Item 4: September board meeting will be keeping the schedule as originally planned.

Discussion Item 5: Town Hall September 17th.

Snacks will be provided as in prior meetings. Other items that will be discussed include introducing Ministry team leaders, finance report, Dundee update, Nominations committee will be given floor time if they need to recruit more volunteers. We will also be discussing improving

the contents of the pew packets. Table discussions will be around making the church more inviting to new members. The questions to be discussed at the tables include:

1. What makes you proud of our church?
2. What would you want to know about our church on your first visit?
3. What could we do to make our website more user friendly?

Communication:

Meg: will continue to work on the Employee Handbook

Casey: will look for church blueprints to send to Collective Sun

Send Julie the leadership name list

Julie: will contact the ministry leaders to inform them of the town hall in September

Send food reminders to those who want to bring food for the town hall

Katie: collect and assemble questions for Collective Sun, Casey will help forward to Lou

Russ: will contact Fischer Roofing when relevant

Closing Prayer: Julie

Next meeting will be September 19th at 6:30 PM.