



### **Admin Board Meeting**

**10/23/2023**

### **North Campus Choir Room**

Ron Hoover opened the meeting with prayer at 7:01.

Bob Mitchell provided the evening devotional titled Overcoming Life's Struggles. Shared a story from his career how things can go from good to bad and how God's intervention brings a calming voice. Utilizing the "24-hour rule" and not reacting in a harsh manner. Bible verse from James 1:2-4 explains how facing trouble is pure joy. When it does, God's guidance will produce the strength to continue. And last, we must forgive those who are against us. Colossians 3:13 reveals we should forgive as the Lord forgave us.

Approval for September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting was done electronically.

It was decided that this meeting would focus on two topics. How do we brand ourselves and By Laws. Ministry reports were submitted. However, the committee chairs did not provide an oral report. They are included in the minutes so everyone can have access to them.

### **Branding: What Will We Be Called**

1. Due West Methodist Church.... formal legal name
2. Due West Church.... DBA name
3. Another name?

#### **Reasons For: Due West Methodist Church**

- Keeping "Methodist" provides continuity in terms of self-image and identity.
- Helpful for those that recognize/appreciate the title of Methodist and have pride in the name.
- Is important to our congregation.

#### **Reasons Against: Due West Methodist Church**

- May be a barrier to those outside our church who could be biased against either Methodism or denominationalism of any kind.

#### **Reasons For: Due West Church**

- Reflects a more neutral position in the public space.
- More approachable
- Helpful because it distances us from negative denominational press.
- Name reflects the church's position in the community.
- Provides the opportunity /challenge to show congregation and community who we really are.

## Reasons Against: Due West Church

- Less descriptive to the community
- Doesn't explicitly claim a Methodist position.
- May feel like a deep departure from our roots/history.

## After presentation, it was opened for thoughts and questions: Responses

- For whom are we choosing a name
  - New members of the community
  - Next generation of congregation
- Run the risk of attracting less Methodist if we choose DWMC...negative press.
- People biased toward Methodist.
- Who are we trying to reach...how can we grow and expanded the ministry of the church?
- By leaving Methodist off, do we become more universal...not associated with any denomination.
- Potential brand damage: Excellent example provided. Large Methodist church in the Atlanta area removed UMC from all signage yet did not vote to disaffiliate.
- The community and congregation will be attracted to the church because of the enormous outreach of activity. Name is important.... actions speak louder than words.

## By Laws

### Overview

- Committee Members
- Our Approach: Working with several examples.
- Transitional in nature

## By Law Articles

1. Name and Purpose
2. Statement of Faith
3. Membership
4. Officers
5. Duties and Power of Officers
6. Church Business and Admin Meetings
7. Educational Ministries
8. Committees
9. Designated Contributions
10. Conflict of interest Policy
11. Binding Christian Arbitration
12. Tax-Exemption Provisions
13. Amendments

## By Laws

### Statement of Faith

-Portrait of what we believe as a church

### “Wesleyan Legacy”

- Traditional Language
- Contemporary or Both

## Membership

- Largely the same with some changes
- Membership Committee
  - Onboarding
  - Follow up

## Officers

- Annual church business meeting....no later than June
- Removing a Pastor...process
- Hiring a Pastor

## Committees

- We recommend the following committees.
  - Trustees
  - Finance
  - SPRC
  - Nominations

## Binding Christian Arbitration

- **Submission To Arbitration:** We believe Christians should work to resolve disputes within the body of Christ through binding Christian arbitration rather than submit disputes to secular courts. (1Cor. 6:1-8, Eph. 4:31-32) Members of the church should agree to submit to binding Christian arbitration. This includes any legal matters within the church that cannot otherwise be resolved, rather than taking these disputes to secular courts.

After Sam made his By Law presentation, the floor was opened up for questions and discussions. The discussion was vibrant with many great ideas and opinions. We started to deep dive into the By Laws and could have discussed the topic for hours. All good and constructive discussion. It was suggested that this meeting was to provide a broad perspective. Everyone should read, make notes, and submit suggestions to Monty Allen to be discussed at our next meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

## A Few Comments

- Tone down the By Law language.... using more Christian language than legal
  - Example: Automatic Termination of Membership. Termination being too harsh.
- Develop a Membership Committee to assist with managing the church role. Keeping it current, updated, and clean.
- Voting age: 18 vs 12

The Admin Board will be meeting again on Nov 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss and vote on Branding and By Laws.

## Ministry Area Reports

### Trustees – Robert Mooney

- Taking estimates on Cross and Flame removal
- Taking estimates on cutting a walkway in the South Campus curb
- Taking estimates on having the steps leading from the field to the pavilion
- Working with Bill Swanson on campus signage
- Installing speed bumps in between Due West Elementary school and south campus

### Finance – Darren Frost

- 2023-2024 (Sept): \$ 140,107 in giving and \$146,351 in expenses.
- 2023-2024 (YTD): \$ 434,427 in giving and \$467,472 in expenses.
- Synovus (our mortgage lender) will allow our new church to assume the existing loan. This equates to approximately \$800K in savings over the life of the loan.

### Alicia Iles – Children’s Ministries

- Bibles were distributed on October 8. We handed out a total of 12!
- In the month of November, dwCrew (3rd-5th grade) will meet on the 5th & 12th. The Christmas party will be December 10 at Big Air.
- Family Advent Celebration will be held December 3 following the Hanging of the Greens service.
- Currently recruiting volunteers.

### Pre-School – Shelly Kubek

- We are doing all things Fall. Pumpkin patch visit for older children. Kindergarten went on a field trip to Pettit Creek.
- Fire Truck visit and we collect items for the fire station presented it to them.
- Holiday Market is Nov 4th from 9am - 2pm in FLC.
- The process of working on the recertification of School of Excellence. We must complete it by February 2024.

### Youth Ministries- Lora Parker-Gayler

- ***The Pumpkin Patch has been very successful! Thanks to those who have volunteered and/or purchased pumpkins at the patch!***
- Rooted Fall Retreat Nov.10-12
- Murphy-Harpst Christmas Ball Dec.10
- Opening High School Ski and Disney Trip in November
- Looking at locations for next summer’s youth mission trip

### Adult Education – Marianna Drinkard

- Small groups continue to meet and add members, which means more people are connecting, although there is obviously an overlap.
- Comparing totals of Sunday School and all other small groups:
- July S.S. = 586 other groups = 214
- August S.S. = 517 other groups = 284
- September S.S. = 291 other groups = 303
- October (so far, with 10 days yet to go):
- S.S. = 322 other groups = 275

### **Women's Ministries – Kerri Casteel**

- Women of Joy Conference this month was awesome. There were 10,000 women in attendance!
- Single Mom's Ministry starts October 26th. We have 6 women signed up. Serving dinner, having childcare along with devotion and sharing time.
- Cookies with Santa: December 2nd and starts at 1:30. We are in need of volunteers to host family tables, take children in to see Santa, man the cocoa table and provide one gift per child. We at present have 21 children attending and 13 families who we are also in need of \$25 gift cards.
- Women's Christmas Brunch: December 9th from 10:30 - 1:30. Table hosts are needed. Our theme is Securely Held, and our speaker is Cheryl Lutz

### **Methodist Men – Larry Sago**

- Murphy's Harps Dinner was a success. Raising over \$11,000
- Upcoming Thanksgiving Turkey Sale

### **Bill Coffeen – Legacy**

- The Legacy Ministry Committee met October 19 and discussed ways to educate and inspire members to consider making both present and planned gifts to our endowment whose name will be changed on November 19, assuming the Annual Conference votes to confirm our disaffiliation decision. We are happy to report that endowment contributions have picked up this last quarter. Another estate planning seminar will be offered Saturday, October 28 highlighting ways to eliminate or minimize taxes on charitable contributions.

### **Music Ministries – Christine Salazar**

- Looking forward to Christmas services and doing a lot of preparation in every single music group!!
- Rehearsals began Saturday with a combined choir singing Handel's messiah.
- Center for the arts is considering a new platform for ticketing.
- CFA is redoing the stage in the FLC, and the search for finding Nemo is fantastic! Get your tickets!
- CFA will be participating in a junior theater festival over MLK weekend in January. This is a big deal that we got in!
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### **Mission/Evangelism – Judy Davis / Mark Hellman**

- Fall Coat drive ended on October 8. We donated over 150 coats to our mission partner, Together for Families.
- We are currently in the Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection. We had 5 new volunteers step up to coordinate this year's campaign.
- Pay attention for info on the Murphy Harpst Christmas drive as well as the Christmas drive for Compton Elementary school.
- Teach Love ministry is collecting \$10 gift cards to The Daily Grind, Chick Fil A, Starbucks and Panera to be put in gift bags for local teachers.
- Teacher Recess will be on November 5, for an evening of fellowship. All teachers, Para pros, administrators, and staff, both current and retired are invited.

### **Media Ministries – Matt Boullain**

- Graphics are ready for whenever the name changes (I actually updated the first slide of this presentation too!)
- In the process of updating (or creating) ministry logos for branding
- Starting an additional monthly video alternating b/t Youth and dwKids so congregation knows what they are up to as well.

#### **Two main goals**

- Create promo videos for Trunk-or-Treat and Pumpkin Patch that can be used every year for advertising.
- Fix miscellaneous tech items or formulate an action plan for stuff beyond my own capabilities.

### **Stewardship – Monty Allen**

- Stewardship letters will be going out via email soon - TBD.
- It will also be printed in the November newsletter.
- You can turn in commitments through traditional cards or via QR code.
- Our target goal will be Thanksgiving weekend, but we will open it up a week early. It is always appreciated when the Administrative Board leads by example.

### **Director of Discipleship – Sam Gindlesberger**

- Trunk or Treat: Another Success!
- Better Days Group now meeting.
- Bonfire Group Update
- Disciple Bible Study 1, 2, 3 ready to launch this January.
- Kevin Watson's Class Meeting Book

### **Congregational Care**

- Congregational Care Ministries continues to be the hands and feet of Christ to our congregation.
- We currently have 43 care recipients.
- We have had 86 people go through grief share.
- We have added two new CCMs this month and a new care recipient as of today.

### **Pastor Report**

- Thanks for all of the prayerful support.
- With the approval of SPRC, I will not be preaching until 12 NOV, which will hopefully give time to address health issues.
- David also wants to keep Barry Taylor and family in our prayers after the passing of his wife Susie.

**Next two meetings will be Nov 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Closing prayer by Ron Hoover at 8:44**

# Attendance

Alicia Iles

Tammy Teague

Bill Coffeen

Terri Kilpatrick

Robert Mitchell

Dusty Cantrell

Lew Amick

Matt Boullain

David Campbell

Sam Gindlesberger

Kerri Casteel

Robert Monney

Butch Gaudette

Monty Allen

Cindy Knupp

Judy Davis

Larry Sago

Cathy Purswell

Shelly Kubek

Corkey Klann

Fritz Hutchinson jr.

Mark Hellman

Ron Hoover

Ross Olhausen