

Our Journey Together

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"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth." The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. - Psalm 46:10-11

General Conference, the "legislative" gathering of United Methodists from around the world will meet April 23-May 3, 2024, in Charlotte, North Carolina. Meeting every four years, General Conference is the only entity that speaks for the denomination. The United Methodist Book of Discipline, updated every four years, incorporates changes made by General Conference.

The 2020 General Conference was set to happen in Minneapolis, MM, until the pandemic made it necessary to postpone the event until 2024. Delegates from Africa, Europe, Asia and the U.S. will attend the 11-day gathering, which could attract as many as 7,500 people. Some 862 delegates, elected from around the world, will gather to set policy and direction for the church, as well as handle other important business. Voting delegates will come from the U.S. (55.9%), Africa (32%), the Philippines (6%), Europe (4.6%) and concordat churches that have close ties to The United Methodist Church (1.5%). Half will be clergy, half lay.

As the top policymaking body of the global UMC, General Conference is the only entity that speaks for the denomination. During the conference, delegates will revise the Book of Discipline, which regulates how local churches, annual conferences and general agencies are organized. The Discipline includes policies regarding church membership, ordination, administration, property and judicial procedures. The assembly may modify most paragraphs by a simple majority vote, but amending the Constitution of The UMC requires a two-thirds affirmative vote, followed by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the aggregate number of members voting in annual conference sessions. Revoking or changing the Articles of Religion or Confession of Faith requires a two-thirds affirmative vote of the delegates, and three-fourths of the annual conference members must concur. Delegates also revise the Book of Resolutions, a volume declaring the church's stance on social justice issues. The statements in the book are considered instructive and persuasive but are not binding on members. Because of the delay in scheduling this General Conference, every item in the entire Book of Resolutions will expire in 2024 unless renewed by action of this General Conference. In addition, the assembly approves plans and budgets for churchwide programs for the next four years and elect members of the Judicial Council and University Senate.

All United Methodists are invited and encouraged to be in prayer for the delegates, and the conference as a whole. - Pastor Teresa



Content Due

Do you have items you would like included in next month's newsletter? If so, please have them into the church office no later than April 22.





April Ushers and Greeters

Apr 7 & 14

Justin and Kayla Wagner

Sara Gates

Apr 21 & 28

Lee & Ashley Conkey

Brielee and Marshall Conkey

If you need to miss a week in which you are scheduled to usher, it is your responsibility to find someone to fill in for you.

Financial Update from Leadership Team



Financial Update as of February 29, 2024:

2024 General Fund Income Year to Date: \$18,978.72
 2024 General Fund Expenses Year to Date: \$27690.64
 General Fund Difference: **(\$8,711.92)**

Hello, church family,

I wanted to give you all an update on our potential partnership with the Harrold and Highmore Methodist churches. A committee from all three churches has met three times and the discussion centered on how we can share a pastor, parsonage, and office services. We've reached a tentative agreement and our plan is to formalize the arrangement in the coming weeks. Each church will remain open and independent, but we will all contribute funding for the pastor's salary, retirement, parsonage expenses, office expenses, etc. To cover those costs, Miller will contribute 60%, Highmore will contribute 30%, and Harrold will contribute 10%. This will help all three churches remain strong and vibrant into the future. While we have some details to iron out, I'm hopeful and excited for this partnership.

The three-church committee has also created a prayer that all of us can pray each day as we continue on this journey (see below).

Please let me know if you have questions or need additional information.

Peace be with you,

Joe

Gracious and loving God,

We come before you as we explore partnering together - 3 churches and yet one family in you. Grant us the gifts of acceptance and patience on this journey. Guide us towards unity and instill in us a bond rooted in love and understanding. Help us recognize your power at work in the midst of our uncertainties and fears and grant us courage and wisdom to discern your will and follow your lead as we embark on this sacred endeavor. In your holy name, we pray. Amen

Birthdays:

Apr 1 Barbara Slunicka
 Apr 2 Savanna Bowar
 Apr 4 Faith Bowar
 Apr 4 Julie Canham
 Apr 6 Heidi Hoftiezer
 Apr 7 Heather Kopecky



Apr 7 Shelley Moncur
 Apr 8 Kadye Fernholz
 Apr 9 Noah Grogan

Apr 13 Ayson VanDerWerff
 Apr 15 Mary Breitling
 Apr 23 Allison Grogan
 Apr 23 Kael Ruhnke
 Apr 25 Lucas Blackburn
 Apr 25 Violet Moncur
 Apr 29 Katie Otteson

*** Please note these minutes have not yet been approved and are subject to modification***

Leadership Team Meeting March 11, 2024

I. Call to Order

In the absence of Chairman Joe Fiala, Pastor Teresa called the March 11, 2024 Leadership Team meeting to order at 5:00 pm in the Library of the church. The sub-committees did not have anything to discuss prior to the full Team meeting.

Members present: Pastor Teresa Whetsel, Bev Cain, Sara Gates, Merle Jenner, Doug Testerman, and JoAnn Testerman. Absent were Joe Fiala and Eugene Moncur. Collin Otteson was a guest.

II. Loving

Opening Devotional – In light of the fact of the missing teenager that many people have been searching for the past two days, Pastor Teresa lead the opening devotional taken from Luke 15. It is the parables of the lost sheep, lost coin, and the prodigal son. There is no one so insignificant that God doesn't search for them. No one can separate us from God. No matter what God is with us.

The Mission Statement of the UMC: "To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world". Everything we do as a church should contribute to this mission.

Where have we seen God at work? Many comments were about the many people that came to help with searching for the missing teen. Others commented on the committees working with the combining of the Miller, Highmore, & Harrold parishes. Also God is working at helping several people with health issues to see improvement.

Pastor Teresa led the group in prayer.

III. Learning

Approval of Consent Calendar

1. Secretary's Minutes - approval of February 2024 Minutes
2. Treasurers Report – February report (as approved by Finance Committee)

Pastor Teresa asked for a motion to approve items of the Consent Calendar.

Treasurer, Sara Gates asked that the Treasurers Report be removed from the consent calendar for an item to be discussed.

Doug Testerman made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Bev Cain seconded the motion. All voted in favor, motion passed.

Sara Gates asked that a motion be made pertaining to the movement of the yearly distributions from endowments in January received from the Dakotas Methodist Foundation. She stated it was discussed at the last meeting but requested a motion listing each account be stated as being moved to the general fund. Bev Cain made a motion that Miller First UMC fund \$1642.47, Roduner Fund, to be used for operations \$1,030.68, Miller First UMC Fund-usage is undesignated \$441.22, Don Steptoe Fund usage is undesignated \$1,793.76 all be put into the general fund. Doug Testerman seconded the motion. All voted in favor, motion passed. The Cotton Fund \$2,009.97 and Colvin Fund \$1,230.25 are for special projects to include but not limited to missions projects, camp scholarships, SS material, choir material, or remodeling. The only restrictions are they may not be used for day to day operations. These two accounts will stay in the Memorial account.

Sara thanked the group for this motion and the clarification as it helps protect everyone. Sara also said the Pension 2022 money \$11,301.87 was voted on the February meeting was moved to the general fund.

b. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be decided via emails because of missing members tonight.

IV. Leading

Collin Otteson – proposal of classroom usage

Collin was present to request a classroom for teaching piano lessons. He said he has had several people inquire about taking lessons but did not have a location to do so. He would carry his own liability insurance and would communicate with the office manager and pastor regarding schedules so as not to interfere with church activities. He thought the choir room would be ideal as there is a piano there already and the NW entry could be used by him and the students. There was an enthusiastic approval by the group. Merle Jenner made a motion that we provide the choir room at no cost to Collin Otteson for piano lessons effective immediately. Bev Cain seconded the motion. All voted in favor, motion carried. Collin also brought a written proposal to the group and it will be attached to these minutes.

Work Team Reports:

Outreach: JoAnn Testerman and Pastor Teresa said they will be joining into a webinar “Rethinking Church Properties for Mission and Sustainability” tomorrow night, Tues. March 12. It will be presented by Rev. Michael Beck.

Worship: no report.

c. Sub-Committee Reports:

Finance:

The Treasurer’s report was prepared by treasurer, Sara Gates. The report was emailed out to the Leadership Team. Hard copies were handed out at the meeting also. The February report showed revenues of \$12,820.03 and expenses at \$15,116.68 for a general fund difference of (\$368.81). YTD general fund difference of (\$8,711.92).

Trustees: no report

Staff-Parish Relations: No report

d. Worship time change for summer

After some discussion it was decided to table this until the decisions are made with Highmore and Harrold parishes.

e. Report from Highmore – Harrold meetings.

Joe Fiala, Sara Gates and JoAnn Testerman are part of the committee with Highmore and Harrold. Sara and JoAnn reported that things are moving along smoothly with good discussions. The committee will meet in Miller on March 17 for more discussion and the other parishes have asked to see what our technology for streaming is and also if they can see the parsonage.

f. Pastor’s Report-

Pastor Teresa reported that United Methodist General Conference will meet April 23-May 3, 2024 in Charlotte, NC. There will be 862 delegates from around the world at the Conference. This will be the first time the Conference has met since 2016. Pastor will be following it via live stream. Pastor explained to the Team what one major piece of legislation (Regionalization) coming before General Council is all about.

There was no more business brought before the group.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned with The Lord’s Prayer at 6:10 p.m.

JoAnn Testerman, recorder

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Library Story Time 12-1 pm	5	6
7 Camp Sunday 	8 • Hymn Sing - Good Sam 6:15	9 UWF Meeting Library 1:30	10	11	12	13
14  POTLUCK DINNER	15 CPAC-Library 7:30 pm	16	17 • UWF Work Day 10-2 Lutheran church • Senior Boxes	18 19 20	21	22
21	22	23	24	25  FEEDING SOUTH DAKOTA Food Truck Noon-1	26	27
28	29	30	 Youth Group Wednesdays 6-7:30			

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When it rains



The skeleton flower, a perennial native to Japan, has delicate petals that change from opaque white to almost transparent when wet. After it rains, only the flower's intricate, skeleton-like veins are visible.

When the rains come (and they will!) in our lives, the same can be said. Amid difficulty and struggle, our true selves often become more transparent. During a parenting challenge, criticism might emerge. Or while we tackle a tough work project, impatience might rear its ugly head.

Hosea 6:3 (NLT) proclaims: "Oh, that we might know the Lord! Let us press on to know him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring." The rains will come. Whether you're experiencing light rain or a downpour, ponder what the water reveals. Then ask God how you can be more open to his work in that area.