**Central UMC Administrative Council Minutes**

**March 13, 2024**

**Present:** Scott Layer, Audrey Madigan, Danny Lantz, Michelle Garcia, Phyllis Wilburn, Kara Scheetz, Joel Malone, Hannah Collins, Tim Sayers, Steve Abercrombie, Steve Rodier, Lisa Thompson & Felicia Patten

**Opening Devotion & Prayer -** **Phyllis Wilburn**

Phyllis opened the meeting by reminding us when we are worried to put our faith in God. She then had a prayer.

**Preparing for 2024 General Conference April 23 – May 9 – Scott Layer**

The article below was a bulletin insert on March 10th & was posted to the church website.

During the entire 123-year history of Central UMC, God has been faithful, and God will be faithful to us in this next season of ministry. As you know, there is uncertainty about the direction of the United Methodist Church. We also know that as Christians, “we walk by faith not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7) Therefore we, as your administrative council, want to communicate proactively and transparently during 2024 and as we approach General Conference April 23-May 3, 2024. Therefore, we have five focuses as we prepare for General Conference.

1) **Prayer -** We invite and covet prayers for our church, Holston Conference, and The United Methodist church and its leaders. It is part of our membership commitment to uphold the church and its leaders in our prayers. There is a weekly prayer from our Holston Conference Delegation that you can subscribe to. 2) **Communication** - We will keep you informed on news that affects the life and ministry of the church. Here are a few links for more information: A Beginners Guide to General Conference 2020 General Conference in 2024 Official General Conference Website

3) **Conference Information Sessions -** We encourage you to attend one of Holston Conference Delegations Sessions to prepare for General Conference. The two closest to Central are: **March 24 - First UMC Maryville 3-5pm** (804 Montvale Station Road - Maryville, TN) **April 7 - Ooltewah UMC 3-5pm** (6131 Relocation Way · Ooltewah, TN)

4) **Unity** - Jesus’ prayed in John 17:20-23 that his followers may be one so that the world may know that Jesus is real. During this time of division and disagreement, we want to foster a sense of unity in our congregation. While we may not agree on everything, we will love each other, believe the best about one another and speak the truth in love.

5) **Dialogue** - For three Sunday afternoons at 3pm, we will have afternoon gatherings in the worship center. All are invited to attend. April 14 - A Concert of Prayer for General Conference April 21 - Understanding the Proposed Legislation and Social Principles May 5 - What was the result of General Conference?

We are thankful for the ways God is working in and through our church. Thank you for all you do to help us live into our vision of “helping people find and follow Jesus.”

*Your Administrative Council*

Scott attended a minsters conference on Tuesday March 12th. There were 130 ministers at the meeting. After speaking with them he felt good about the steps Central has taken to keep people informed about the upcoming general conference. There will be a daily prayer guide for the church leading up to the conference. Scott said if you are asked about the general conference refer them to UM News or the Holstein Conference site. Phyllis suggested reading the revised social principals.

Scott reminded us of the three-year vision.

**Ministry Snapshot for 2024** - What’s Healthy? What’s Stuck? What’s Unclear? What’s Missing? **Initiatives: Long List**

1. Leadership Development

- Mentoring,

- class offering,

- identifying and deploying,

- speaking in public

2. Mission Engagement

- Serving in church

- Serving in Mission

3. Holy Spirit Worship / Encounters

- Opportunities to soak in presence of God

- Something you feel

- Not rushed.

4. General Conference - Firm up General Conference preparation for Central

5. Becoming an Inviting Church

Scott asked the council to pick the top three initiatives. After discussion the three below were chosen.

**2024 Initiatives**

1. General Conference Owner – Scott Layer

2. Mission Engagement Owner – Steve Rodier

3. Holy Spirit Worship/Encounters Owner – Lindsey Blocker & Lisa Thompson

Scott said there will be a video posted on social media inviting people to worship with Central on Easter Sunday.

**Lay Leaders Reports:**

**Connect – Lisa Thompson**  Her team is not just serving on Sundays. They helped at the Ash Wednesday service at Trinity & two Eaton Elementary events. She hasn’t heard anything from the ushers or coffee ministry so things must be going well.

**Grow – Kara Scheetz** There will be a table on Easter Sunday identifying the small groups available at Central & what will be happening this spring. Trying to encourage people to join a small group.

**Serve – Steve Abercrombie**  Central is an active church & many people are serving.

**Finance Report – Joel Malone** The church is in the black $6,930. Collections are $40k below this time last year. The church is below budget.

**Missions – Steve Rodier**

The main focus area for the Missions Team is preparation for the Missions Celebration Weekend April 27 and 28.  Top activities:

Rev. Dr. Samuel Dzobo, Tennessee Valley District Associate and Pastor of Lennon-Seney United Methodist Church, will deliver keynote messages at both services.

Presentations by 7 Missions Partner organizations will be made to the congregation during the time between services:

* Lennon-Seney UMC ‘Five Loaves’ Food Pantry
* Project Crossroads
* Good Samaritan Center
* Magnolia Ministries (Raising a Voice)
* Holston Home for Children
* 'New Voices' Campaign of the Holston Conference
* 'Eliminating Bible Poverty'

The congregation will be given the opportunity to make their Faith Promise commitments to support Missions in the upcoming budget year.

Packing of 50,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger will be done on Saturday, April 27. Our goal is to pack all these meals in just 2 hours with 200 volunteers!

Several members of the Missions Team are hard at work on these preparations, and communications with the congregation have already begun.

Methodist Build for Habitat for Humanity – Things are progressing at the home build site at 501 W. 1st Avenue in Lenoir City.  All of the trees have been removed and the ground excavated.  The next steps will be footings, foundation and crawl space construction, and inspections – tasks that are not done by volunteers. Our best guess is that the house will be ready for volunteer construction work in April, perhaps early in the month. The full range of opportunities to serve includes: Prayer, food preparation and service, volunteering at the Habitat Re-Store, making a financial donation, donating construction materials or professional services, or doing construction work. Our list of Habitat volunteers from Central currently includes about 80 people and we are looking for more.  We are getting organized to start work in earnest once the site is ready for volunteers.

**Trustees – Tim Sayers**

**Recently Completed:**

Automatic Emergency Defibrillator (AED):

* + New units installed in Pavilion, Rear of Sanctuary, Clubhouse Central, and Hallway by Central Clubhouse.
  + Training on the new units will be held for Emergency Response Team (and staff ?).
* Request for new microphone headsets for pastors approved.
* Majority of work on utility easement has been completed.
* Plaque in memory of Bud Rogers was installed by outdoor flag poles.
* Some of the playground equipment in Central Clubhouse playground has been upgraded.
* The Messler family donated a gas grill for use by the youth. Grill will be stored in the storage shed.
* Maintenance is done on Honda push mower.

**In Process:**

* Review Property and Casualty Insurance policy.
  + Target completion – April 2024
* Check In ‘station’ in Gathering area is being upgraded for increased safety and efficiency.
  + Target completion – May 2024
* Determining if the fluorescent lights on the wood beams in the Sanctuary should be repaired, converted to use LED bubs, or be replaced with LED fixtures.
  + Target completion – June 2024
* Reviewing excess Audio / Video equipment and developing plan for sale, or donation.

Target completion – April 2024

* Request for Plexiglas enclosure for around drums in contemporary service is being reviewed.
  + Target completion – April 2024
* We are planning on adding electrical outlet need in main building, primarily in the Sanctuary and Gathering area. Original electrician was a no show, so we are looking for another electrician.
  + Target completion – June 2024
* Investigating replacing bulbs in 9 main light fixtures in Pavilion with LED bulbs and / or replacing light fixtures with LED fixtures.
  + Target completion – January 2024
* Investigating upgrading phone connection for fire alarm from a landline to a cellular connection.
  + Target completion – May 2024
* Determine plan for future of Pavilion. Replace outer panels? Replace entire building with traditional building.
  + Quote to replace outer panels received. Quote is approx. $150,000.
  + Target completion – December 2024 (tentative)
* Central Clubhouse Playground
  + 4 small pieces of playground equipment need to be installed.
  + Determining how to get them installed.
  + Additional mulch has been delivered and needs to be spread. Additional mulch is on order.
  + Target completion – May 2024
* Approx. 9 acres on the far side of Larry Duff Dr.:
  + Survey has been completed.
  + Appraisal is in process. Once the appraisal is received the information will be provided to the Finance Committee and Administrative Council.
  + Target completion – Ongoing
* Utility Easement Work (corner of Hwy. 70 & Hwy. 321):
  + Minor ‘punch list’ issues are being worked on by LCUB and the contractor.
  + Doug Raymer recommends leaving the area open and not replanting trees.
  + Target completion – May 2024
* Banner Signs:
  + 2 new large signs (side by side) at corner of Hwy. 70 & Hwy. 321
  + Clean And Paint Existing ‘Banner Sign at corner of Hwy. 321 & Larry Duff Dr.
  + The group that is working on the project will meet soon to reassess how the signs will look now that the trees have been removed.
  + Target completion – End of May 2024
* Replacing Bushes & Trees:
  + Replace bushes and trees that are damaged or have died.
  + Target completion – TBD
* Mulch for bush and flower beds has been ordered and will be spread in beds prior to Easter.
  + Target completion – Easter
* Small diameter gravel has been delivered and spread in the Gaga Pit and also under the small canopy outside the playground area.
  + Target completion – April 2024
* Farmer that mowed and baled ‘hay’ on the rear of the property is not interested in doing it again this year. We have asked him to give us a quote on mowing it approx. 4 times per year.
  + Target completion – April 2024

**Future:**

* Power wash and seal concrete sidewalks:
  + Target completion – July 2024
* Assess outdoor lighting and add or upgrade as need:
  + Target completion – September 2024
* Replace siding on main building as needed and paint exterior of main building:
  + This will be a **primary project for 2024**.
  + Target completion – September 2024
* Repair or replace portions of roof, especially flat sections:
  + This will be a **primary project for 2024.**
  + Target completion – September 2024
* Determine plan for future of Courtyard
  + Target completion – December 2024 (tentative)
* Begin systematic replacement of HVAC units. This will improve reliability and also reduce electricity consumption:
  + Target completion - Ongoing

**Staff Parish – Danny Lantz**

* The updating of the employee policy manual is a work in progress.
* Kayla Myers Clubhouse Central position was posted Monday March 4th. Will accept applications through April 5th.

**Staff Reports:**

**Central Kids – Hannah Collins**

**February- March**

● Tightening Check-in security procedures for new families showing up each week for CK

Worship

● Working to update Check-In Station to make it more obvious and user friendly to visitors

with grant earned by Kayla Myers

● Hosted Wiggle Church in January and February with Michelle and Scott

● Launched a new Sunday School Classroom- now 3 Central Kids Sunday School

classes, averaging about 30 each week; gained 3 new Sunday school volunteers

● Coordinating and prepping Palm Sunday event, Easter in Five Letters (20 families

signed up so far)

● CK Worship still going strong in both services, about 10-15 children in each service

***Looking Ahead***

● Wiggle Church 3/20

● Palm Sunday Children’s palm processional and movement performance

*● Easter in 5 Letters* Family Engagement Event on Palm Sunday (March 24)

● Gathering Area Check-In space update

● Booked Camp In the Community for June 24-28 as our main summer outreach focus

● Family Olympics- Wed. July 24 (to include Central Kids and Students), families from our

community are welcome

**Central Students – Michelle Garcia**

**Alpha Retreat:** 7 students signed up; 5 were able to go along with 5 leaders. We rented a cabin

in Standing Stone State Park and had a lot of fun while learning more about the Holy Spirit!

There were times of worship, videos, discussions, a special time of prayer, delicious meals, and

free time for games, hiking and exploring.

**Sunrise Service:** We are preparing for our Youth-led Sunrise Service @ 7:30am on Easter

(03/31) behind the Pavilion around the campfire. This will be a special service hosted by our

students. Just as Jesus overcame the power of sin, death and Satan, He helps us overcome the

troubles of this life and that will be the theme of our service.

**Attendance:** We are growing! Last month, we had 18 regular attenders, and on one Sunday we

had 14 students in Sunday School and 14 at Youth! This has not happened since I have been

here. It is something to celebrate!

I also switched to a new service for sending out reminders to students called Text in Church and

there are over 20 students wanting to be on that list.

**Curriculum:** In Sunday school, we will be wrapping up our Alpha series over the next month by

discussing the church, Methodism, and healing. In April, we will begin a new series on the

commands of Christ.

In Youth, we are doing a series called Temptation and Truth from our Journey to Freedom

curriculum. In April, we will begin a series called Open Conversations.

**Worship & Music – Lindsey Blocker**

* She is concentrating on Holy week & Easter.
* There will be a concert at the church in May with Roane State.
* There are new members in the choir.
* They are working on improving the sound in Sunday services & the livestream.
* Working on getting a drum cage.

**Associate Pastor – Audrey Madigan**

* Thanked the staff for everything they did while Scott was gone.
* Elaine Crowder, Michelle & Audrey attended a prayer summit held by the Holstein conference. They recommended that churches have prayer teams. These teams have existed at Central for twenty-one years due to the Crowders.
* Elaine Crowder has chaired congregational care for fourteen years. Becky Buttermore will now be her co-chair.

**Lead Pastor – Scott Layer**

* He will preach on anxiety after Easter Sunday.
* How do we help people lean into prayer.

Bob Culver can’t serve on the trustees for 2024. Tim made a motion that Brent Abercrombie be a member of the trustees through 2024. Motion passed. Scott closed the meeting with a prayer.

**January**

**2024**

**Calendaring**

**our**

**Discipleship**

**Path**

**Outreach**

**-**

**Reaching**

**People**

**Where**

**They**

**Are**

**Connect**

**-**

Come

Worship

as

You

Are

**Grow**

**-**

Find Spiritual Friendships

**Serve**

**-**

Make a Difference

**Give**

**-**

Live

Generously

**Go**

**-**

**Go**

**and**

**Tell**

-

Sermon

Series:

The

Book

of

Mark:

Rediscovering

Jesus

(13

Weeks)

-

Winter

Small

Group

Launch

(Dec

31,

Jan

7,

14)

-

Habitat

Kickoff

and

Dedication

@Trinity

UMC

-

Jan

7

3pm

-

Resurrection

(Jan

19

-

21)

**February**

-

Combined

Ash

Wednesday

service

at

Trinity

UMC,

Choir

-

6:30pm

-

Scott

on

Renewal

Leave

(Jan

29

-

Feb

26)

-

Scout

Sunday

-

Feb

18

-

Habitat

Build

**March**

-

Confirmation

Retreat

March

1

-

2

-

Kids

Outreach/Family

Event

-

March

24

-

Passover

Seder:Maundy

Thursday

28

-

Good

Friday

Service

-

Friday

March

29

-

Easter 7, 9

and 11

-

March 31

(invite)

-

Spring

Small

Group

Communication

-

March

24,31

-

Habitat

Build

**April**

**May**

**June**

-

Sermon

Series:

Marks

of

a

Movement

-

**GO**

**LIVE**

**LOVE**

**Launch**

**April**

**7**

**-**

**May**

**19**

-

Confirmation

Sunday

-

April

14

-

General

Conference

April

23

—

May

3

-

Mission

Celebration

Weekend:

April

27

-

28.

Keynote:

Rev.

Sam

Dzobo

-

Rise Against Hunger Meal

packing

-

April

27

-

Habitat

Build

-

Combined Musical Partnership w/ Roane County: Rutter Requiem

May 3 7pm

-

Zimbabwe

Buckets

-

May

12

-

Habitat

Build

-

Holston

Annual

Conference:

June

9

-

12

-

Youth

Mission

Trip:

Project

Crossroads

June

17

-

21

**2024**

**Scheduled**

**Administrative**

**Council**

**Dates:**

-

January

16

-

6

-

7:30pm

-

July

16

-

6pm

-

March

12

-

6pm

-

Sept

17

-

6pm

-

May

14

-

6pm

-

Dec

10

-

6pm