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Administrative Council: Strategic Planning

Hey there, CHURCH!! We, the Administrative Council (AdCo), are going to try to help out this year with the budget process, but with an eye to the "long haul." We're going to attempt some STRATEGIC PLANNING. Now, strategic planning is best accomplished in person where ideas offered stimulate ideas in others, that lead to ideas from others, and on and on. However, we don't have that luxury in this crazy COVID environment. Instead, I'm going to call on my research background and attempt this via something similar to a Delphi (Yes, think of the Oracle of Delphi) study. Here's how I see it working, step-by-step:

1. Email me your thoughts on the following:
 - a. What is it that keeps you as a member of FUMC?
 - b. What would you like to see FUMC continue to do over the next 5 years?
 - c. What do you think we could stop doing at FUMC, that few in any would miss?
 - d. (Really STRETCH here) What are some ways we can increase income, other than increase giving and increased membership?
2. I will collate the information I receive and redistribute it asking these same 4 questions again, believing that reading the comments of others will stimulate your own thoughts more deeply.
3. After I receive this 2nd round of ideas, the work will focus with the AdCo (as the Oracle). We will review all information and identify what FUMC priorities should be, going forward, based upon the CHURCH's responses. We will conduct 2 rounds of reviews (similar to Delphi research).
4. We will "land" on a top 3-5 priorities that will become the foundation of a 5-year strategic plan for FUMC. My intent, then, is to create a brochure that we can distribute to all, and make available to anyone considering FUMC for their church home.

I've been a part of, and led, similar processes with a professional non-profit for a little over 20 years. Face-to-face, it works flawlessly. I'm praying my virtual adaptation works with only a few kinks. Here's my email for your thoughts:

Robinsoncr56@gmail.com Please reply by September 10.

In the subject line, please put "FUMC SP." That way, I can easily sort and collate your comments.

Thanks ever so much for participating. Let's come out of COVID stronger, better, and with a GREAT PLAN for our FUMC future!

Chester Robison, AdCo Chair



Children's Ministry

If you know of any children who would like to join the program, please email Amy at stark.amy1@gmail.com.



Sam & Sky Gamez dancing with a video from this year's at-home VBS



Sam & Sky Gamez doing a craft from this year's at-home VBS craft kit.

Little Ark Activity

Little Ark started their 2020-2021 school year on August 6th. Everything is going well, and the kids and teachers are so happy to be back! Chapel may start again in September.



We are continuing with the protocol of parents not being allowed in the building at this time. We take daily temps (kids and employees) with a no-contact thermometer and are very vigilant in our cleaning.



Preschool Class



PreK Class

Finance Report

Greetings everyone. The Finance Committee has not been meeting the last few months but activity continues. As we reported, the church received the CARES loan from the government which enabled the church to keep all employees on the payroll for a couple of months. However, that money has been used and current income doesn't support continued payment. Working with the Personnel Committee, non-essential staff members have been furloughed to reduce cost. We wish to thank several staff members who voluntarily stepped down or took a pay reduction when their activity level was low or nonexistent.



Now as we look forward, we are putting together the operating budget for 2021. Income has been trending down for a couple of years, and 2020 has been really low as one would expect with reduced in-person church activity. We thank those loyal members who have continued to give during this period.

In planning ahead, a continued decline in income is expected. The Finance Committee is working with other church committees to develop an operating plan that fits a reduced budget. As plans develop, we will try to keep you informed of any significant changes.

The key to long term financial stability is improving membership and attendance. So invite someone to church and pray for the church and its leadership.

Thank you for your continued support, financial and personal.
The Finance Committee

Serve Team Activity

In this time of changes, your Serve team is still at work distributing mission funds. In May, \$500 was allocated to North Texas Food Bank to help distribute food to those in need. Hunt County Shared Ministries (FISH) benefited from a \$500 donation in June. And locally \$500 was given to CISD Stuff the Bus to purchase needed school supplies.

Our August Mission of the Month is the Wesleyan Campus Ministry. We will continue allocating funds as long as we can. While making your offerings this year please consider making a special offering for the Mission of the Month.



Upcoming Missions:

- September - Hunger Action Month
- October - Hunt County Clothe a Child

“Stay” Safe Merry Marketplace & Silent Auction for Missions

Save the Date of **December 5, 2020!**

This year the Merry Market will still occur but differently. We will invite patrons to “Stay Home and Safe for a Cause.” Make a donation from your couch to fund missions while staying at home.

The silent auction will be online. We’ve already lined up some yummy baked goods—chocolate cake or cinnamon rolls, anyone?—and some beautiful handmade items.

All proceeds benefit local and international organizations that need our support. More details coming soon.



Trustees Report

Church Trustees

Grading to control water runoff on the west side of the west parking lot was completed.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our friend, Diane, owner of Fiber Circle in Farmersville donated 8 boxes of beautiful yarn to Prayer Shawl. She has supported our group for years, and in normal times, we take a field trip twice a year to her shop to stock up on our supplies. Diane is a devoted supporter of Prayer Shawl!



Coffee with Pastor Sam: Weekly Activities

TUESDAY’S TUNES

Hymn of the Week: New and old favorites!

WEDNESDAY’S WORD

Bible Study: Scriptures for this Sunday

Friday’s Freeview

Your Influence in the Message: The Word of the People!



The Light @ WCM

Starting September 2nd 6p The Light is moving to Wednesdays!

THE LIGHT

This Fall's sermon series inspired by Jacob's night of Holy Wrestling; "Wrestling with God."

All are invited 6p Wednesday Worship at the Wesleyan, with passionate worship leader Nevin Jackson, the gifted band and Pastor Brian preaching on "Wrestling with ...bad theology, doubt, injustice, the isms, us v them..." Also live-streaming on FB Group TAMU-CWesleyan.

Due to Covid19 we will not be serving dinner following John Wesley's rules: "Do no harm, do good, stay in love with God."



Pray for students, educators,
and parents as schools
continue/start back.

Giggles Galore

Everyone PLEASE be careful because people are going crazy from being locked down at home!

I was just talking about this with the microwave and the toaster while drinking my coffee, and we all agreed that things are getting bad.

I didn't mention any of this to the washing machine, because she puts a different spin on EVERYTHING!! Certainly couldn't share with the fridge, cause he's been acting cold and distant!

In the end, the iron straightened me out! She said the situation isn't all that pressing and all the wrinkles will soon get ironed out!

The vacuum, however, was very unsympathetic...told me to just suck it up buttercup! But the fan was VERY optimistic and gave me hope that it will all blow over soon!

The toilet looked a bit flushed but didn't say anything when I asked its opinion, but the front door said I was becoming unhinged and the doorknob told me to get a grip!! You can just about guess what the curtains told me: they told me to "pull myself together!"

We will survive!! [#alonetogether2020](https://twitter.com/alonetogether2020)



In Memory of

Steve Siebenhausen

Walt Parker
Dough Rollins SS Class
Joe & Laura Milligan
Carole Walker

Joe McMahan

Gerry Ruschhaupt, Judy Rodgers, Janet
McDougal, & Richard Ruschhaupt
Tommy Saunder
Dough Rollins SS Class

Glenna Anderson

Jim & Janet Latham
Mariann Andrews
Betty Martin

Myra Terrell

Jim & Janet Latham
Dough Rollins SS Class
Judith & Jack Westerman
John & Martha Foote

Gene Casselberry

Ben & Nancy Doughty
Jerry & Sandy Hutton
Betty Martin

Edna O'Quinn

Dough Rollins SS Class



A Note of Thanks:

*Thank y'all for your gift in memory
of our mother, Edna O'Quinn. Your
thoughts and prayers are greatly
appreciated.*

Danny & Mike O'Quinn

By the Numbers

Worship Service Video Views

8/2	168
8/9	607
8/16	737
8/23	145
8/30	113

Committee Chairs

Ad Council Chair:
Chester Robinson
(903) 366-2125

Lay Leader:
Bill Heitholt
(903) 886-6819

SPPRC Chair:
David Giles
(817) 366-2026

Trustees Chair:
Gene Lockhart
(903) 513-8676

Finance Chair:
Jim Brown
(903) 886-7439

FUMC Foundation Pres.:
Tammy Naizer
(903) 886-1961

Worship Chair:
Nancy Doughty
(903) 886-6328

Connect/Grow Chair:
Bonnie Smith
(903) 782-5312

Serve Team Chair:
Amy Stark
(903) 246-1487

**In case of emergency pastoral care need,
please call or text Pastor Sam at 214-842-9252.**

Prayer List

Recent Concerns:

- Students, Teachers, and Parents starting school for the fall
- Family of Larry Poe
- Family of Steve Siebenhausen
- Family of Rev. Gene Wisdom
- Emma Dobbs
- Lena Faulkner
- Butch Greene
- Jenny Greene
- Rheba Icenhower
- Priscilla McFarland
- Mary Louise McMahan
- Donna Tavener
- Those who have or have had COVID-19
- Those in the medical field
- Those working in the food supply chain
- Those keeping our country safe and going

Continued Prayers (long term):

- Our world, country, & leaders
- Phil Barlow (Robyn Elwell's father)
- Sue Boykin
- Betty Casselberry
- Harold & Becky Coker
- Virginia Collier
- Garrett Cramer
- Rev. Tom Dudley
- Cindy French (Marsha Shepherd's coworker)
- Jack & Gladys Gray
- Sally Grove
- Margie Hamlin (Linda King's mother)
- Bill W Heitholt's nephew-in-law
- Linda Hill (Dave Giles' cousin)
- Robert Jenkins (Tiffany Harrison's father)
- Gail Levey (Bill & Diane Duffy's friend)
- Zachary Madden
- Harold & Priscilla McFarland (Julia Robinson's parents)
- Betty Morton
- Alfredo Muniz
- Lona Neal (Greg Neal's Mother)
- Richard Norton
- Jim Posinello (Diane Duffy's brother-in-law)

Continued Prayers (long term) (continued):

- Robert Seay
- Harley Stegall (Viola Beadles Martin's granddaughter)
- Odeana Stewart
- James and Geneva Teel
- Dr. Richard Watts (Chester Robinson's friend)
- Brenda Wheeler (Cathy Giles' sister)
- Rev. Dennis Wilkinson

Oak Manor:

- Helen Cole
- Mary Culbertson
- Nick Heath

Draughn's/Country Home Estate:

- Mary Louise McMahan
- Jayne Williams

Briarcliff:

- Rheba Icenhower

Greenville Health & Rehab:

- Mildred Davis

Christian Care Center (Mesquite):

- Roger & Jean Arnold

Austin:

- Ruby Vander Velde

Those serving in our military:

- Lt. Dan Barton
- Daniel Chamberlain
- Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
- IT2 Patrick Stogner (Janelle Stogner's grandson in Japan)
- Col. Keith Williams
- Major Bob Farmer



September Birthdays

9/1 Donna Tavener
9/2 Tricia Dempsey
Debra Soltanzad
9/3 Bob McLeroy
Leila Riddle
9/7 Mary Means
9/8 Amelia Martin
9/10 Ann Underhill
9/11 Jennifer Bunch
9/13 Dennis Anderson
David Giles
9/15 Margaret Floyd
Frances Sartwell
9/17 Kay Shope
Brit Smith
9/19 Judy Anderson
9/21 Bill Knutson



September Birthdays, continued

9/21 Mitzi Parker
Chester Robinson
9/24 Nancy Ogden
9/25 Meghan Green
9/27 Joe Milligan
Ruth Warren
9/30 Trish King

September Anniversaries

9/6 Monty & Lisa McGuyer
9/26 Pete & Mary Smith
9/28 David & Cathy Giles



First United Methodist Church
1709 Highway 24
Commerce, TX 75428
Pastor - Rev. Sam Caldwell