Minutes for Blakemore UMC Leadership Board

Call to Order

An introductory/brainstorming meeting of the Blakemore UMC Leadership was held on December 7, 2015. It began at 6:30 p.m.

Attendees

Voting members in attendance included Cavit Cheshier, Anne Kabiling, Kristi Walker, Ellen Zinkiewicz, Lisa Lewis, Zach Lalor, Korey Kemper, Deanna McCulley, Patty Tippens, Carrie Friddell, Susan Slater, and Rev. John Hill.

Nonvoting members in attendance included Ashley Kemper.

Action Items

Covenant for 2016: The Leadership Board brainstormed key components to include. Ashley Kemper will create a formal version for members to sign.

What We Value: The Leadership Board brainstormed and discussed things that we value as a congregation. As a group, they settled on five themes. Then, the Board listed actions, events, or examples of how we as a congregation can live out these values. These included:

1) **We value you... just the way you are**
   - Become a reconciling congregation
   - Become a congregation that is inclusive to all levels of abilities
   - Small groups: social included (resume Koinonia)
   - Consider gender differences and needs
   - Be intentional about welcoming guests and helping them to connect (bring back the bread)
   - Intentional follow up activities for new attendees

2) **We value kids, even when they aren't quiet and don't sit still**
   - We need to connect generations
   - Sensory friendly worship for all kids and families
   - Leadership for children - paid
   - Support for post-HS kids
   - Childcare for meetings, parents, etc
   - Groups for diverse groups
   - Parenting group & spiritual study
   - Motivational activities for our kids and community

3) **We value a good conversation and the many thoughtful opinions about how to walk a faithful journey**
   - Opportunities outside Sunday morning
   - Small groups
   - Tuesday Table Talk
   - I want to make the congregation actively aware of our connectional ministries and how important they are
   - We should blog these good, diverse conversations to connect to our virtual neighbors, provide opportunities to join the conversation
   - Discipleship conversation is great... especially when it helps me to be who God created me to be

4) We value our neighbors, from West End to Uganda
  - Work on reducing expenses to increase apportionments
  - Engage families already active in BUMC ministries
  - Transportation
  - Invest in relationships with Blakemore Children's Center, West End Middle School, sister churches
  - Ask Room in the Inn folks, they'll tell you what they like and don't like -- care enough to response
  - Include/plan activities it is easy to invite people to
  - Mailing with incentive
  - Engage millennials -- social media & digital platforms
  - Music Together Groups and Music Therapy

5) We live as forgiven and reconciled people in God's grace
  - Outreach: service = outward signs for an inward grace
  - SLI
  - Talk to someone you don't know
  - Nurture
  - Share stories of vulnerability online... web content (video?)

Opportunities for Sharing These Values with the Congregation: Board discussed ways to communicate these messages with the larger membership, including one-on-one conversations, phone calls, regular social gatherings, publicizing the values in the Fellowship Hall. Scheduled January 24 Potluck Social immediately following Worship (12:00 p.m.). Details will be decided during January Board meeting.

Future Meeting Dates for 2016:

January 11	May 9	September 12
February 8	NO JUNE MEETING	October 10
March 14	July 11	November 14
April 11	August 8	December 12

Announcements

Hospitality Chair (Korey Kemper) distributed copies of ideas to incorporate in 2016. Mentioned creation of small team of welcoming members to help manage and grow hospitality: Lisa Lewis, Kathy Jackson, and Stephanie Barca.

Education Chair (Lisa Lewis) mentioned the hope to conduct Parent's Night Out events with the help of the Youth Group.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned with prayer at 8:10 p.m.

_____
Secretary
Blakemore Leadership Board

_____
Date of Approval