

Deacon Minutes – Approved  
10 May 2018

Present: Mary Lancaster, Teri Burgen, Pam Parker, Cindy Taylor, Ishi Stackpole, Debbie Ellison, and Pastor Cable

Absent: Steve Stalder, Rob Stegeman, Ethan Funk,

Opening Prayer: Mary Lancaster

Meeting Opened: Combined 6:30 pm - Deacons 7:22 pm

April Deacon Minutes: Approved as corrected. Ordered to be sent out to the Deacons, Session and Office Staff.

**Joint Meeting with Session**

- Re-shape Today
  - Good response by congregation in past 3 weeks
  - Admin sent out initial follow-up email within one week of completing survey
  - Chairman of the individual teams will get the names of those with passions for their teams, if members choose to share their results
    - Chairs should send out a short email soon after receiving names
    - Names should be discussed at next team meeting
    - Differentiate between doers and planners when considering placing on the ministry Team as leadership vs serving in a service role.
  - Engage with Teams
    - New updated Engage booklet produced with information on each team including ministry descriptions and how to contact the team
    - Each team needs to review information for their team and contact Michael for changes, if needed
    - Final copies will be placed on Engage table and given to new members
- Security
  - Recent issues
    - Break in Tuesday morning with door to roof open -- nothing taken
    - Kids seen on rooftop about 3 weeks ago
  - Outdoor security beefed up with Ring doorbells (video capable and motion sensors)
  - Indoor motion sensing cameras in Children's wing and above mission board
  - Community Action Team - KC
    - Contacted and will provide a security survey, crime analysis of neighborhood and security training
  - Neighborhood meeting scheduled for 19 May planned by Outreach Team
    - Opportunity to be a good neighbor

- Security is one of the interest topics
  - Hope to begin to define who is our community
  - Every team should have a representative at the meeting
- March Elder Retreat Follow-up
  - Elder Initiatives Follow-up Worksheet
    - Initial Ministry Care
      - Asking
      - Teaching/Applying
      - Understanding
      - Loving
      - Training
    - Each team should discuss their teams input/influence on any of the five initiatives at their next team meeting.
    - Within your own team fill out the worksheet focusing on 1-2 important items
      - Big Picture -- first question
      - Brainstorm potential action items -- second question
      - Send copy of completed worksheet to [coordinating@gashland.org](mailto:coordinating@gashland.org)

### Pastor's Report

- Chapter 11 "From Embers to a Flame"
  - Small Group Discipleship
    - Author sees it as an essential of ministry
    - Area for growth at GEPC
  - What stands out in this chapter
    - Contrast and Comparison of mentoring and discipling
    - Keeps bad teaching from happening
    - Jesus' primary way of teaching was small group
    - Small groups encourage and provide fellowship for those who attend them. See "one anothers" verses on p 180
  - Benefits of Vibrant Small Group Ministry
    - Model of Church Family
    - Pray for each other
    - Outwardly focused
    - Bond and appreciate diversity
    - Keeping the Word as the focus (keeps from being a gripe session)
  - AI: Read Chapter 12 (The W.E.L.L. Church) for next month to finish up book study.
    - Much like Gashland MD (W.O.R.D. corresponds to W.E.L.L.)
      - **Worship** - **Worship**
      - **Evangelism** - **Outreach**
      - **Loving** - **Relationships**

- Learning - Discipleship
- Next study
  - Session currently studying 7 session series on Gospel Shaped Mercy by Stephen Um produced through The Gospel Coalition. Pastor Ritchey suggested Deacons also begin the same study.
    - Seeks heart change
    - Big on mercy
    - Lays foundation for outreach
  - AI: Ritchey will send out links to view videos and print off workbook.
  - AI: Review first 2 sessions for next meeting.

### **Team Reports**

- **Coordinating**
  - See report/Dennis at Session Meeting
  - AI: Mary with questions about report and will bring to next meeting
- **Finance**
  - No report
  - Monthly budget received from Phil
- **Helps**
  - No report/no meeting
    - Conversations is over for the summer.
    - Debbie hosted retreat for Conversations cooking group at her lake house.
    - Teri has solved the Sam's credit card problem and is now able to have Emily order online supplies for the coffee service.
  - Prayer request: Connie Sommer injured her arms in a fall.
  - Prayer request: Paula's mother, Shirley, fell and broke hip and shoulder in St. Louis.
- **Mercy**
  - see report
  - Great response to HelpNet cards last Sunday.
- **Property**
  - No report.
  - Plan to acknowledge Tom with token of appreciation not yet finalized.
  - Discussed sloped entryway in front of main doors on east side.
    - Property team is looking into several options for redoing that area to make it less hazardous.
    - Temporary solution was discussed with Helps Team deacons to possibly get the FirsTeam members or others to help those with difficulty navigating that area on Sunday

- mornings until permanent solution obtained.
- AI: Mary has idea for revamping and will share with property team.

### **Old Business**

- Deacon Fellowship (EF) – TABLED

### **New Business**

- Scrips gift cards were discussed as a means of fund raising.
  - Need vision (purpose and plan) before seeking resources
  - Must be careful about what money is tied to (eg unethical businesses). Churches must be careful about what they support.
    - Several controversial businesses on Scrips
    - Corporations are not out to be nice, but to make money
  - Do not want to become money changers
  - Scrips will not be pursued at this time due to concerns voiced.
- Debbie brought up idea about sharing left over meals from conversations with the neighborhood.
  - Will take idea back to Helps Team and come up with initiative.

### **WOW reports**

- A fairly troubled individual, new to the church, has had 4-5 members express interest in helping this person. One member has had a profound weight placed on their heart to help.
- Response to HelpNet request has been awesome. God's provision and timing clearly stirring the hearts of the congregation after hearing the Word from Romans. This area had been a long time struggle for the Mercy Team.
  - One responder, a high schooler, has offered her services in many areas of caring and assistance with any task needed.
- A hearing impaired student in Courtney Taylor's kindergarten class has progressed from not speaking or having any knowledge of reading, letters, or sounds at the beginning of the school year to being able to read independently, talk in complete sentences and carrying on conversations.
- Chris T. able to successfully persevere through difficult phobia.
- Phil Pace led his first Bible study today at Eleos where he is now working. He has been a big blessing to Dan (owner) and has conducted several prayer walks.

### **Prayer Requests**

- Pray for the new visitor to the church named under the WOW reports and for those who are wanting to help.
- Pray for student in Courtney's class whose parents want to send her back to the deaf school so she can learn sign language enabling her to communicate with her twin sister who is also hearing impaired.

Closing Prayer: Pam Parker

Meeting adjourned: 8:44 pm  
Next Meeting: 12 June 2018 5:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Taylor  
Clerk of Deacons

Mary Lancaster  
Vice Moderator