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Thalia United Methodist Church Leadership Team

January 27, 2025 Minutes

- The monthly meeting of the Leadership Team of Thalia United Methodist Church was held on January 27, 2025. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Mark McKinney at 6:33 pm. In attendance: Mark McKinney, John Martin, Autaya Chaplin, Christine Shultis, Barbara Jennings, Bill Shewchuk, Cameron Brown, Jerry Ditty and Joe Varner. Also in attendance was Chair of the Orphans and Vulnerable Children Committee, Richard Norman.
- Barbara Jennings read an article "He gets us" by David French for the Spiritual Formation moment.
- Last meeting was the Charge Conference. Those minutes were submitted to the District, so there were no minutes to be reviewed and approved. The position of Recording Secretary had not yet been filled, and Christine Shultis offered to fill that role.
- Chairman Mark McKinney began the meeting with a reference to the book Mission Possible which he will use as a guide for Leadership Team meetings. Mark distributed copies of the Behavioral Covenant, which the members of the team agreed to adhere to.
- Mark asked the question "What is the role of the local church" which the members discussed. He will send each member a Spiritual Gifts assessment and a Primary Leadership Components assessment which he asked the members to complete and share with the Team.
- Joe Varner then gave the Pastor's Report which indicates that average church attendance at TUMC in 2024 slightly increased from 2023.
- Members Report:
- John Martin gave the Finance Report which indicates that we are short by approximately \$4000 in January.

- **Bill Shewchuk gave the Trustees Report and shared that the stove in the kitchen is not working and it will cost at least \$800 for a factory dent stove to replace it.**
- **Mark McKinney asked members to submit committee reports at least a week in advance if possible.**
- **Richard Norman, Chair of the Orphans & Vulnerable Children Committee gave a presentation to the Team. F4O is asking that we share their message with other Churches. Dr. Wayne Lavender and Pastor Joe Varner will be hosting a meeting on Monday, February 24 at 9:00 am, with St Andrews UMC and other Churches.**
- **We have two empowerment groups, the Braves and the Success. Thalia has over \$17,000 towards support of a third group starting in October 2026.**
- **Pastor Joe made a motion to continue support of funding the Empowerment groups. Cameron Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Pastor Joe made another motion to assist in empowerment groups with the goal to spend General Funds on F4O. Barbara Jennings seconded motion. Motion tabled until additional discussion can take place.**
- **At this time, Richard Norman was excused from the meeting.**
- **Mark McKinney introduced the topic of a Visionary Process for Leadership to discuss where we are as a church and where we are going. He introduced the idea that the District has a Church Revitalizer, Stephanie Parker, who can help us develop a vision for the future. A discussion ensued.**
- **Mark made a motion to call Stephanie. Cameron Brown seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **The Team then discussed planning a Stewardship Campaign – Several ideas were brought up such as encouraging people who attend regularly to join the church. John Martin felt that we need to develop a specific goal. The idea of starting a campaign in the spring was brought up.**
- **Toward the end of the meeting, Joe Varner asked the question “what is expected of leaders?” and it’s something that we will discuss at a future meeting.**

- **Mark opened the floor for an open discussion – Bill suggested that on the 5th Sunday in March, we have a fellowship hour between the services during the Sunday School hour.**
- **Mark closed meeting at 8:02 pm and Joe Varner gave the closing prayer.**