

Thalia United Methodist Church Leadership Team

February 24, 2025 Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Leadership Team of Thalia United Methodist Church was held on February 24, 2025. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Mark McKinney at 6:30 pm who also opened the meeting with a prayer. In attendance: Mark McKinney, John Martin, Autaya Chaplin, Barbara Jennings, Bill Shewchuk, Cameron Brown, Jerry Ditty and Joe Varner. Christine Shultis was absent and excused. Also in attendance was Stephanie Kimec-Parker, UMC District Coordinator for Church Revitalization.

Barbara Jennings read an article by Celia Miller about our lifelong process of conforming to the image of Jesus for the Spiritual Formation moment.

Next on the agenda was the approval of the January minutes. Jerry Ditty made a motion to approve the minutes, and Autaya Chaplin seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

The Team then engaged in a discussion of leadership-equipping and the visioning process, Facilitated by Stephanie Kimec-Parker.

The intended outcome of the visioning process is to follow through on the innovations we approved through the Next Level Innovations Process. Our vision seems to be taking shape, and it includes consideration of the needs of the community and how the unique gifts of the church overlap community needs. Our vision includes our mission to youth, orphans, and vulnerable children and our calling is to make disciples of Jesus. We need to develop our focus, which includes setting "SMART" goals. These are goals that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-Bound. The pastor and staff work on implementing the goals, for example "Three baptisms by September." Then objectives are developed based on the goals. The principle and mission through which we will achieve our goals is "Living and Loving Like Jesus."

Some considerations include:

- how we are uniquely called to execute our mission "to love and serve the local community" and focus our resources there;
- we will serve youth and vulnerable children, but with a broader scope than our current model of an Orphans and Vulnerable Children focus;
- discerning how we can integrate our community into our church;
- ours is a unique physical location, and our campus is used by myriad groups;
- on March 29 there is an "Edges" workshop at Oak Grove UMC where we can develop a SWOT Analysis. Leadership Team members are encouraged to attend. This will be a great first step to look at our programs and consider other steps such as interviewing people in the community.
- What does our motto "living and loving like Jesus" look like when put into practice?

Focusing our efforts should yield fruit.

Possible Action Steps:

- involve the whole congregation on a Saturday morning for 3-4 hours to discuss the above considerations and encourage buy-in;
- Form a small group to hone-in on a vision statement with one or two from the Leadership Team included;
- On April 6 (following the March 29 Edges workshop), Leadership Team Huddle following the 10:30 service;

Stephanie Kimec-Parker was excused from the meeting. It was suggested that she be invited back to the Saturday morning meeting with the full congregation.

Mark reviewed with the team some of the results of the Leadership Team Assessments that were completed by team members in February. In the interest of time, a short discussion followed, and the assessments will be more fully reviewed at the March meeting.

Joe Varner gave the pastor's report in which he indicated that church attendance has been on a slight upward trend over the past few months.

Other reports given:

- Trustees – Bill Shewchuck reported that the broken kitchen stove was replaced by another stove at a cost of \$839. He also reported that following the snowstorm, the parking lot was plowed. An invoice for approximately \$1000 for that service is expected at any time.
- Finance – John Martin reviewed giving statistics with the Team.
- SPPRC –A discussion was held regarding musician compensation during the Music Director's parental leave.

The next meeting will be held on March 24, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting ended at 7:45 with a prayer given by Bill Shewchuck.