

Minutes: Heartland of Texas Emmaus Community Executive Board

Burnet First United Methodist Church

December 10, 2019 7:00 p.m.

Attendees: Ti Mynk, Tom Ruiz, JoAnn Dilworth, Susan Nevills, Jason Teague, Janice Hinojosa, Troy Ellett, Allen Mynk, David Hinojosa, Kelsey Mills, Richard Wendrock, Tom Bornschein, Suzanne Taylor

Visitors: Alan Bazard, Matt Schuessler, Ricky Paz, Megan Paz, Brandy Melton, Penny Mills

Opening: Jason Teague opened with prayer at 6:59 p.m. Ti called the meeting to order.

Minutes: Richard made the motion to accept minutes Allen seconded. The motion passed with none opposed.

HOTEC Spiritual Director Comments: Jason compared the community “unity issue” to the parable of the talents. Stewardship involves investing wisely over and above our personal preferences of what we’ve always done. God gave us what we have in our care for a reason – money, time, etc. Let’s all remember our greater purpose.

Treasurer’s Report: Susan presented the November treasurer’s report.

A question arose as to the \$1,259.93 identified as “T-shirts.” The purpose of this account was to build an amount of money that could be used to pay for the site if a walk does not make. Jason asked if the funds are restricted in use. Matthew Schuessler stated that at first the purpose of the t-shirt sales was clearly identified, and Susan said that for the past four years the account has not been touched. We can move the funds to a different account. Richard suggested that we should do t-shirts again. It was determined that the funds will remain as an emergency fund.

Kelsey made the motion to accept the treasurer’s report and Jason seconded. The motion passed with none opposed.

Old Business:

- Regarding the use of live flame candles for Candlelight, Susan reported that Church Mutual Insurance company recommends no real candles because of the liability issue. If we choose to use them, we are required to provide a waiver of liability.

The motion that was tabled from the October and November meetings was to move Candlelight to the Family Life Center with real candles (original motion by Kelsey, seconded by Janice; motion to table by Richard, seconded by David). One person voted in favor of the motion, and all others were opposed. The motion failed so Candlelight will be held in the sanctuary as in the past with battery lights. This will require purchase of new candles as the current ones are 4-5 years old. Ti will research candles.

- Board members reviewed a compilation of comments from surveys obtained at the December gathering regarding moving to one gathering per month. Board members are strongly encouraged to attend most of the gatherings as this is critical to building unity. Tom B. mentioned that another key to unity is the Reunion Group, and it's somewhat discouraging to have so many closing because of numbers. The gatherings will continue as is for the next year.

New Business:

- Ti stated that we have not assigned a Board Rep for the 2020 Women's Walk and asked if any board members wanted to volunteer. No one did. Ti opened it up to others, and two visitors – Penny Mills and Megan Paz – volunteered. During discussion, both ladies were asked to step out of the room. A question arose as to whether Megan was qualified to serve as board rep. She has worked on an inside team twice and has worked for short periods of time on outside / background team but has not worked an entire walk on background. Troy stated that he has worked with Megan and believes she has worked an entire walk, but Ti said that she had not according to the guidelines that were in place at the time. Since we have been making the men go back and "make up" work on background team, we should do the same for women. Tom Ruiz made the motion to ask Penny Mills to serve as Board Rep for the Women's 2020 Walk, and Tom B. seconded. The motion passed. Penny accepted the position.
- Matt Schuessler reported on preparation for the Men's 2020 Walk. All team members have been notified, and the first team meeting will be in early January. Jon Weems is working on clergy assignments, and we currently have 10 pilgrims signed up with another pending. Susan reported that background team members have been selected and will be notified within the next few days. We need reunion groups to serve meals at the various team meetings.
- Assignment of Board positions will be done in January, 2020.
 - Suzanne Taylor voiced concerns about board positions and referred to the By-Laws requirement of three groups of 5 board members so that each year one group rotates off. Currently, we have 11 working positions. When past boards combined positions, it eliminated positions. She feels this is not being completely transparent with the community and that when we lose a board member, we should ask the community for someone to take that place. Ti stated that we've tried that but are not getting people to take positions.
 - Suzanne stated that we either do what the By-Laws say or change the By-Laws. Ti agreed that we should have addressed the by-laws earlier but have not done so.
 - Ricky Paz stated that the By-Laws are very specific and that we should do exactly what they say and not change the By-Laws to fit what we want. He referred specifically to terms of service and stated that it is important for members to take time off periodically and not continue to serve as this give each person time to

recharge. He stated that the Board members are here to serve and that we must allow others to serve, as well. We are all here to serve God.

- Ti assigned Tom Ruiz to chair a committee to review our By-Laws in comparison to those suggested by UR. Kelsey and Janice will also serve on that committee.
- Brandie Melton stated that the intent of the By-Laws is to have a mix of experience and non-experience among the Board and encouraged us to keep that at the forefront.
- Dates for Gatherings at both north and south locations were announced – these are on the website.

Open Forum:

- Richard brought up the idea of new t-shirts. Kelsey suggested maybe having a general community one and a different one for each walk. Matt suggested a sign up to order specific sizes. Richard will bring further information back to the Board by February.
- Richard stated that he is going off the board but wanted to share his opinion that we desperately need a coordinator in every church, not just those that host Gatherings. He said that at Bee Creek, they put applications out for anyone along with a list of potential sponsors and that he'd like to see the Board members partnering more with the churches. Tom B. added that we need training for sponsors so they will follow up with all the pilgrims.
- Ricky Paz stated that in the earlier discussion about By-Laws, some board members seemed willing to change things when needed but that when discussing Megan in relation to serving as Board Rep, changes were not allowed. He reminded Board Members to serve from their hearts.

HOTEC Lay Director Comments: Ti stated that it has been great serving as the Lay Director for the Board. "We may argue and fuss, but we make good decisions for the community."

Janice closed the meeting in prayer at 8:16 p.m.

Next meeting date will be January 6, 2020 at Burnet FUMC at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

JoAnn Dilworth, Secretary
December 31, 2019