



## St. John United Methodist Church Prospect, KY Administrative Council

Meeting Minutes - July 11, 2024

**In attendance:** Pastor losmar Alvarez, Chris Smith, Scott Bartelt, Beverly Smith, Carmen Cantrell, Jack Meisburg, Kyle Ray, Jeremy Rodgers, Louis Fowler, Jeff Mayott, Beth Scherer, Steven Lundy, Kellie Harrison, Natalie Burden, Betsy Keefe, Dan Breu, Mary Louise Amrein, Miriam Tinnell

This was an open meeting and we had about 25 of our members observing.

### 1. Love

**Opening Prayer:** Jeff led us in our opening prayer.

**Glory Sightings:** Glory sightings were shared by Steven, Jeff, Betsy, Louis, Beth, Scott, Dan, Kyle, Kellie, and Chris.

**Devotional:** Chris shared passages from the Bible (Galatians, Hebrews, Isaiah, James, Philippians, Titus, and John)

### 2. Learn

**Book of Discipline:** Chris noted a church's Administrative Council duties per the United Methodist Church Book of Discipline. (Handout) Specific items mentioned stated that the Administrative Council is the governing body of the church, and that its primary duty is to support the work of the church. losmar reviewed the governing bodies beyond the local church: Annual (state) conference, Regional conference, Southeastern conference, and General conference.

**St. John Values:** Chris reminded us of St. John's Values. We are: Christ centered, Biblically based, Discipleship driven, Community oriented, Mission minded, and Family focused. We are making a difference by following Christ, offering hope, serving others, and loving everyone!

### 3. Lead

**Minutes:** Scott made a motion to approve the minutes for June 13, 2024. Betsy seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

### Summer Programs

**Children's Ministry:** Betsy shared highlights from Vacation Bible School. Over 200 children attended VBS this year. She stated that the company providing the VBS materials included excellent components, such as memorizing Bible verses.

**Music Ministry:** Kyle shared that the Children's Summer Musical Camp will be next week, July 15-19. Their performance will be Friday, July 19, 2024 at 7 pm.

**Youth Ministry:** Jeff announced that the Youth Center will be redone. It will be painted a brighter color and furniture will be replaced. One of Jeff's goals is for the youth to participate in our worship services. He also feels it is very important for the youth to serve in the community. Jeff listed possible topics the youth will be studying in the coming weeks.

**Membership Update:** Steven reported on the initiative to establish an accurate membership roll. Letters have been sent to all those listed on St. John's membership roll. A card was enclosed requesting each person provide their membership status. Cards can be returned either by mail or in person. Someone will reach out by phone or email if there is not a current address for a member.

**Use of Church Facilities:** Chris asked for council member's input on church facilities use. Suggestions/questions need to be made by the next council meeting. This information will then be given to the Trustee Team for their consideration.

**Committee to Review Exit Options:** Chris stated that an information gathering committee will consider options for an exit strategy from the UMC.

**Beth made the following motion:** I move that we disband the disaffiliation committee and work instead in the next few months before the Judicial Council meets to try to repair the divide in our congregation. We could reinstate the discernment team to work during that time to see if there is a majority interest in disaffiliation. If there is, once the Judicial Council has defined the path, we can reinstate the disaffiliation committee to break St. John from the United Methodist Church.

**A vote was taken using a paper ballot.** The final vote was: 5 yes and 13 no. The motion did not pass.

Chris noted that this process may take months. losmar asked: How can we better communicate with our congregation? Chris suggested the Administrative Council agenda be shared with the congregation.

Two of the observers at our meeting spoke regarding a possible exit strategy from the UMC. Joyce Fletcher voiced her opinion that the current status with the Methodist Church should be sufficient for the Traditionalist. Wes Worley expressed his views that churches are exploring exit possibilities from the UMC.

**Closing Prayer:** Jeff led us in our closing prayer.