MUMC’s Lead Team met on Monday, September 24. Those in attendance were Andrew Beverley (Lead Team Chair), Pastor Fred, Pastor Charity, Trustees: (Chair) Don Gruenewald, Brian Callahan Staff/Parish team: Lisa Lenoir Finance Team: Chris DeMoss, Foundation: Greg Cecil, Lay Members to Annual Conference: Bryan Hartnagel, Charles Sampson and Betsy Vicente, Lay Leader Mark Dressler. Guests were Dave Babel and Phyllis Miller.

Following opening prayer by Charles Sampson, Andrew Beverley opened September’s meeting by reading a letter from a former member who has moved from Columbia and who attended services at MUMC this past Sunday. The letter acknowledged the updates to the facility, the service elements, and the clergy, and mentioned numerous things pointing to a picture of a healthy church. We give thanks to God for guiding us in a positive direction and ask that we might continue to listen for His wisdom!

The Memorial Prayer Garden committee spoke to the Lead Team about the many meetings they have had regarding ways to maintain the cleanliness of the courtyard and the sanctity of the Prayer Garden. Following lengthy discussion, the Lead Team voted to allow the committee to erect a non-imposing fence along 2 sides of the courtyard, cutting down on casual traffic from pets and pet owners, but still allowing visibility and access to the Prayer Garden and surrounding area.

Pastor Charity updated the Team on plans for The City and shared the new facebook page (The City Worship Movement) so that the Lead Team and others can help “share” City events. Charity and Madi have applied for a grant from the Office of Congregational Development and are educating their team through Launch Academy weekly events. Check out the facebook page and ask how YOU can be a leader in The City! Launch date is December 2nd.

In preparation for Charge Conference on October 22nd, the Nominations Committee recommended a 2% salary increase for clergy for 2019. The Lead Team approved the Nominations Committee’s recommendations for leadership positions, approved the 2019 Pastoral Support forms, and approved the list of inactive members for submission to the conference. All lists and recommendations will be available following the Charge Conference on the 22nd.

Before the meeting adjourned, the Finance Team shared that both giving and expenses are tracking favorably for this time of the year. The Finance Team has worked diligently and will continue to focus on sound financial policy and procedure as they move toward the 4th quarter.

How is your heart calling you to serve?