

Gather Houston Board Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2022
11:30 am

Voting Members in Attendance: Josh Hilburn, Rachel Dubose, Andy Pechacek, Udoro Gatewood, Kelsey Murphy, Dani Gantt

Non-voting Members in Attendance: Lauren Hazard

Start time: 11:23 am

Agenda:

- Easter Plans:
 - Josh reported that he has a different plan for Easter this year. There will be a brunch buffet outside for our church community and neighbors. We will set up tables inside and worship over brunch. There will be free haircuts and a collection for items needed on behalf of Restoring Justice.
 - The Board approved moving forward with these plans for Easter Sunday.
- Outreach Update:
 - In February we hosted the Neighborhood Feast in our parking lot. The outreach in April will take place on Easter Sunday.
- Formation Update:
 - Kelsey reported that Josh's Bible class that took place via Zoom in February had about 20 people participate. Josh and Andre have discussed ideas for additional Zoom classes and other channels for making this information available.
 - Community groups started in the Heights and Midtown. A new group will be starting geared toward families with children. This will take place once a month on a Saturday morning.
- Community Events Update:
 - Dani reported on the upcoming events taking place in April which include Community Brunch, Community Groups, Easter Sunday, Women's Brunch, and the new Garden Oaks community group.

- Financial Update:
 - Josh began by stating that the church is losing a good bit of money in the first quarter of this year. There are a number of reasons why this is the case. In general, there are more people giving than ever, but per capita giving is down.
 - Andy reported that we currently have \$17,000 in recurring giving monthly. Lauren noted that number is actually closer to \$16,000 due to failed credit card charges every month. Our monthly expenses are \$30,000-34,000 per month. We started the year with \$101,000 in our bank account and our current balance is \$51,000. Giving is down 33% from this time last year.
 - Josh presented a plan for Q2 to lower expenses by \$2500 per month, increase giving by \$2500 per month, and raise \$25,000 from one-time gifts. The Board agreed that this plan is a good start and they will need to revisit the finances and budget at the end of Q2. Andy noted that even with Josh's plan, the church is still losing money monthly.
 - Additional decisions made by the Board – to forego Community Brunch in April and make Easter Sunday a potluck. The Women's Brunch will also be postponed, and a Members' Meeting will be held on that day.

End Time: 12:38pm

Members' Meeting: April 24th

Next Meeting: May 22nd