

Leadership Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 15 2026 @ 7:00p

Board Members:

Present:

Rachel Leftwich, Chair.	John Gingrich, Co-Chair
Corinne Dowell.	Bruce Irey
Paul Kochan.	Paul Merritt
Jeff Gardner	Doug Doggett, Sr
Pat Lange	Mike Marks, Lay Leader

Absent : Rev. Dr. Anthony Hood, Lead Pastor

Guests:

Tom Tobe - rentals

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm, attendance taken and members asked to update contact info and end year of Leadership Board service.

Opening Prayer given by Corinne Dowell.

Spiritual Formation shared by Pat Lange.

Secretary Position - After some personal invitations and an open question for any volunteers for this position, it remains unfilled. Rachel suggested that for the meantime we rotate secretary roles monthly, much like we volunteer for prayers. The board agreed this would work until a future secretary is named.

Discussion regarding new Leadership Board members carried over from last month. Suggestions will be given to the nominations committee with hopes of adding 2-3 members to the Board.

Financial Report - Bruce Irey - Nardin Park has received an appreciation award from Bishop Bard and the Michigan Conference for the full participation of our Ministry Shares in 2025. This great achievement will be shared with the congregation during services, posted on our social media pages, and posted in hardcopy on the bulletin board in Mercer Hall. Bruce shared that they had again reevaluated a 10-month installment option vs. a 12-month installment & decided to continue with the 10-month option as it is best for budgeting. The Finance Team report has highlighted the first quarter of 2026 comparison to 2025: Our year-to-date income is \$50,000 ahead of last year. Our Easter services offering was \$8,464.77. Half of this will be donated to support the Samaritan Counseling Center. Words of celebration were shared regarding how many people came for Easter service.

January thru March 2026 income states our budgeted amount was \$164,636.80 compared to our actual income at \$149,764.56. Nardin Park's expenses were budgeted for \$199,375.95 compared to our actual spent \$185,941.82. There is a deficit of -\$36,177.26 January 1st - March 31st 2026.

Upon the topic of Easter, curiosities on how we can best greet and engage our visitors and congregants arose. Suggestions included defined welcoming greeters; possibly ushers or hospitality committee. Could be helpful and aligned with our security processes, also.

Trustees Report - John Gingrich - New screens from SAI were professionally installed in Mercer Hall. They have been used by their group as well as Nardin Park events and are working well. We are in need of a new House Committee chair. Trustees are also looking for some new members and a secretary position to be filled. Repairs for secondary tower window damage are in planning stages and insurance money has been received. Also, wiring repairs for street lighting and signage are in quotation stages.

New changes to Nardin Park's Inclement Weather Policy now state that, in addition to the office and building closures aligning with the public school closures, we will cancel in-person worship IF there is a prediction by Thursday of 7 inches of snow on Saturday night to Sunday morning. Pastor Hood and Jack Chefan with pre-record worship material in advance, if needed. Members will be notified and provided a link to the recording.

Update on Church Safety & Security - Jeff Gardner - Security taskforce consisting of Pastor Hood, Doug Maclean, Tom Tobe, and Jeff Gardner have been working on implementing and communicating security processes for the building. Jeff has worked with the FH police department to arrange an **ALICE training on Saturday June 27th at 10:00am**. Invitations will go out to all of our rental groups to participate in this training. Leadership Board members shared concerns over exterior doors being open during times that we had previously agreed to have them locked. Reminders will be communicated with staff and renters.

Accident Protocol - Rachel Leftwich - Regardless of how minor it may seem, Accident Reports need to be filled out after any incident. They are created by our insurance company and are available in the office and the Welcome Center in Mercer Hall. Tom Tobe seconded the importance of these documents. Suggestion was made that the ushers could possibly be involved/educated on the reports as they are knowledgeable and watchful helpers. We should call for emergency professionals and then it is up to the individual if they would like to seek continued medical care. A follow up phone call or connection should be made to the injured party from a church contact.

Rental Update - Tom Tobe - Requests for single day rentals have increased; ie. birthday parties. Two new recurring rentals are also secured: a chorus group (\$3,600/year) and a religious group (\$4,800/year). The chorus will be having a flower pick up event on May 5th using our East parking lot. On April 25th the FH police, along with FAME, will be hosting a teen distracted driving course in our parking lot. On May 17th, SAI will be having a Blood Drive from 9a-3p. We celebrate these additions to our income and our community. Tom reminded us that Nardin Park events will always receive top priority in scheduling; for example, the spaghetti dinners.

MLK, Jr Event - NPUMC asked by Greater Detroit District to host January 10, 2027 - Rachel Leftwich - Members agreed that we should accept the offer to host this event.

SMART Goal Review - Rachel Leftwich - "Developing as a Disciple" : need 19 more participants to reach our goal. Upper Room booklets and sermon review options were discussed. Leadership Board members asked to sign up and commit to a discipline..

LB meeting date suggestions - Rachel Leftwich - So as not to conflict with the Summer Concert Series, the majority of members are able to meet on Monday evenings in July and August instead of Wednesdays. Time remains at 7:00pm. Members and church office will receive scheduled dates for the rest of 2026.

Closing Prayer - Mike Marks
Meeting End at 8:30pm

MAY 20th, 2026 LB meeting:

Opening prayer - Pastor Anthony

Spiritual Formation - Pat Lange

Closing Prayer - Bruce Ireby

Secretary - Corinne Dowell