

Green St UMC 213 Study: A Process for Assessment of Local Church Potential

Presentation date: **November 4, 2019 7:00-8:30PM**

Invite Members of the Congregation, Pastor, DS, representatives of:

MME Church District Location and Building: **Ned Crockett, Marc Chaput, Larry Perkins**

MME Congregational Development: *use info from consultant work & Rick McKinley*

MME Finance: **Rev. Nancy Bischoff**

Green St UMC:

Finance: **Connie Packard, Sue Pattershall**

Property: **Gary Alexander, George Jones** (custodian)

Mission, Ministry, Leadership: **Valerie Gallagher, Rev. Kristin White**

Pastor: **Rev. Kristin White**

The following assessment items are described in the 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline paragraph 213 and are useful in determining the future plans for a church. Information has been gathered from the churches' files, conversation with leaders and members, and Mission Insite.

213.1 a *Unique missional needs of the community*

Augusta is a capital city trying to redevelop itself while providing services to residents and transients who are in recovery, release from incarceration, immigration. Increase in single parent households. Workers commute into city and out to suburbs. High rate of unchurched people.

213.1.b *present ministries of the congregation*

The emerging vision of a Spiritual Life Center has collapsed with loss of leadership following GC2019. Commitment to the neighborhood, populated with low income and transitional housing, is expressed in food giveaway which builds trust and relationship. No plans are in place for community asset development or outreaching missional engagement.

Rick McKinley: Recent worship attendance trend has been downward, dropping from a bit over one hundred to in the mid-seventies in the last 9 or 10 years.

A significant shift in urban church models is from a service delivery agent to an asset-based community developer. Ex: the Neighboring Movement (www.neighboringmovement.org). Not "quick fix" changes but changes that can potentially move a church to greater health and vitality. This is consistent with Green St UMC's spiritual life center, creating a space where people can express a greater depth in their life with God.

Possible training needed (pastor and lay leaders)

i. Asset Based Community Development

- ii. Creative use of building for revenue
- iii. Building partnerships in the local community

Beth Estock:

Assets (in addition to those named):

- *Gifted Pastoral Leader who's developed leadership with contemplative practices.
- *Gifted and reflective leaders ready to experiment with connections to neighborhood
- *worship services solid in content and depth
- *generous welcoming and hospitality
- *desire to share gifts for spiritual formation with larger community.
- *streamlined decision making capacity through Single Board structure.

Liabilities:

- *Lack of clarity around roles & responsibilities as well as permission to activate on ideas.
- *Important 1x1 conversations stalled. Reason unclear, points to lack of capacity to build processes and programs to support vision and efforts.

213.1.c *number of leaders and style of leadership*

- *decreasing due to age and denominational conflict.
- *One Board governance structure: "The Pastor casts the vision for the church's fulfillment of its mission, and leads the church in accomplishing that mission. The Pastor, in conjunction with the Board or leadership development Committee, as appropriate, recruits and equips paid and volunteer staff and leadership for ministry, oversees staff and ministry teams and serves as the liaison between ministry teams, staff, and the Board. This includes reviewing budget line items with ministry teams and staff, and maintaining financial accountability of ministry teams to the Board. The Pastor has the authority to hire and fire paid and unpaid staff, and will have one Board member present whenever a staff person is dismissed. The pastor is a voting member of the Board, excepting when the Board votes on Trustees or SPRC matters (per Book of Discipline)."

2011 Sustainability study recommended assessing staff. Hours were adjusted but not job descriptions. Staffing structure and function should be reassessed to meet church's current needs.

213.1.d *growth potential of the surrounding community*

Limited, civic redevelopment efforts are underway.

Demographics (Mission Insite) show larger group types are:

- Significant singles
- Rooted flower power
- Senior discounts *potential use of transportation Trust fund.*
- Town Elders
- Dare to Dream-young singles, lower income.

213.1.e *fiscal and facilities needs*

Maintenance:

*Minor roof repair pending (estimate \$7,000) otherwise sound.

*normal upkeep needs noted

Physical Assets:

*Main sanctuary very nice lovely workmanship and amazing ceiling.

*fairly new furnaces, follow up from 2011 Sustainability study

*Very large upstairs space nearly finished may provide rental possibilities for the church if the right tenant.

Physical Liabilities:

*lack of weekday parking, This has blocked attempts to lease to tenants since the 2011 Sustainability Study. . Green St UMC has 6 dedicated parking spaces. City zoning requires 12 in order to approve.

Note: Should a building sale be considered in the future, Green St would need to seek permission through the courts to alter the deed restriction (section 4, March 16, 1897).

Financial Assets

Invested funds (2018 numbers)

Names	amount	2018 interest & use
1. Restricted Trust (combined small bequests)	\$165,052	\$8, 709 (prop ins)
2. Bridge Family Trust **	\$441,722	\$16, 855 (coaching, Mechuwana camps, student loan)
3. Fifield Trust	\$ 9,120	\$466 not used
4. Halcyon Roberts*	\$209, 974	\$6,699 not used
5. Doliber Fund	\$ 700	\$12, youth camp
TOTAL	\$616,803.974	

2019 NEAC assistance

Equitable Compensation \$10,000 (income)

Perry Rich Fund (1 of 3 years) \$24, 423.00 (income)

Mission Share Relief \$ 9,000 (decreases budget)

Property Insurance relief (proposed for 2020) approx. \$9,0000

Financial Liabilities:

24% decrease in pledging contributors since 2017

35% decrease in Identified givers since 2017

2010 “Watershed year” as began relying on invested funds for operating budget.

2017 increased support from NEUMC

* The “Halcyon Roberts Fund” is devoted to senior transportation to church services and events.

****The Bridge Fund is devoted to youth and children (church transportation and supplemental programs), outside resources for evangelism and spiritual renewal, education loans to needy members, interest free loans to members in UMC mission work beyond the USA.**

213.1.f *Distance from other UMCs*

Hallowell	2.3 miles, 5 minutes
Gardiner	6.3 miles, 12 minutes
Vassalboro	18 miles, 24 minutes
Waterville	22.5 miles, 28 minutes

213.1.g *number and sizes of churches of other denominations in the community- full time*

Central Church, awa 1,200 with strong youth programs.

Lutheran/Episcopal merger, awa 60

Unitarian Universalist, awa 120

Penney Memorial Baptist, awa 150

Hope Baptist, Manchester, awa 320

213.1.h *Other items that may impact the church's ability to fulfill the mission of the church as stated in Chapter One, Section I.*

Loss of members and leadership in aftermath of GC 2019.

Augusta's ongoing attempts at economic renewal

Ability to maintain full time appointment and current staffing

213.2 Findings presented to congregation with options for:

X__be an organized church w/ ministries of nurture, outreach, witness (BOD 201-204)

Possibilities: house church, share worship space, alternate location,

shared lay ministry team with coordinating pastor and certified Lay Minister.

X Cooperative Parish Ministries (BOD206)

___merger

___ecumenical shared ministries (BOD207)

___redevelopment

? relocation *parking concern*

___discontinuance.

3 potential pathways

1. Less than full time pastoral appointment.
2. Continued full time appointment with concentrated redevelopment
3. Cooperative Parish with other River Network Church(es).