

**Saint Paul School of Theology**  
**On Campus at Saint Paul in Leawood, at Trinity UMC in Kansas City, and on Zoom (Z)**  
**October 2023**

**Friday, October 20, 2023**

Board Members Present: Amy Hogan, Tex Sample, Mark Faulkner, Dana Alridge, Linda Shipman, David Wiggs, Tino Herrera, Jabari Wamble, Arden Borgan, Jennifer Ahrens-Sims (Z)

Guest Present: Neil Blair, Matt Mills, Jay Simmons, Sharon Betsworth, Richard Liantonio, Shannon Hancock, Margaretta Smith-Narcisse, Jennifer Smith, Elaine Robinson (Z), Tiffany Nagel-Monroe (Z), Jeanne Hoelt (Z), Tammi Allensworth (Z)

**1:05 pm**

**Intro – Amy Hogan**

**1:06pm - Begin**

**Devotion – Neil Blair** – referred to Proverbs 16:9. Spoke of how this is his last board meeting. Asked everyone, then spoke of what we / he planned early in life wasn't necessarily what we / he ended up doing for a majority of life. Spoke of his 30 plus years spent with Saint Paul, through his education, his Vice President time, Development/fundraising, and time as President.

**1:26pm**

**Board Business – Amy Hogan**

Set the Agenda (to follow preprinted agenda)

Review and Approve July Minutes – Amy has been out of the office for 4.5 weeks and has not had the proper time to review and finalize the July minutes.

**NO Motion** at this time on the July minutes until reviewed and finalized by Amy Hogan.

**1:27pm**

**Executive Leadership Team –**

**Jay –**

- Focus on enrollment;
- Working on **COS** efforts to seminary degree programs. target of adding 5 course of study students to a seminary program each year; Counseling program.
- **Korea** 10 day trip, as our past tuition revenue was approximately 1/5 of total revenue. Dr. Chun is very well respected in Korea, and Heesung Hwang have connections with the younger, upcoming people. Good groundwork has been laid. Visited churches and universities. Evaluate Bishop Chung Suk Kim who may supply scholarships. SPST needs to revisit Korea, and to figure out next steps to take.
- **Meetings** with (recent and/or upcoming), as part of his upcoming appointment as SPST President
  - 10/18 – Bishop Nunn of Oklahoma regarding recruiting.
  - 10/19 – Bishop Farr in Columbia, MO regarding recruiting from local churches, Black and Hispanic, African immigrant community and Farr liked Lucas' initiative of the calendar of classes and the SPST COS program.
  - Will plan on meeting with Bishops in Great Plains (Wilson), Iowa, Arkansas, and others.

**Tiffany –**

- **Podcast Room in OKC**
  - Uses – meeting space, green screen, backgrounds, SPST wall shelf, desks, and various equipment.
  - Connecting modern ministry with the digital word, nod to Casey Sigmon.
  - Kudos to Julian Faraon for all his help with technology and tutorials about everything. Also, Mike Hannah.
  - Users – students, faculty, staff, alumni with access via a lockbox and code for room. Not to outsiders, as this may be a liability issue. We will not publish student podcasts. Possible revenue in future to rent out room.
  - Targets – videos for seminary classes, Alanna has used for Spiritual Formation Tuesdays & added the videos to moodle, students who do their own podcasts, Bible studies, faculty interviews.

1:55pm

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Academic Committee

Sharon –

- Faculty working on updating MDIV, MDIV goal and purpose and ATS standards.
- What are students defining as their context as to how they are serving. Working on integration of students to their church.
- Specialization – Spirituality and Prophetic Leadership led by Elaine Robinson
- Contextual Education (in the field education) and other programs such as internship placement.
- MACM curriculum.
- Assessment Committee has been working on student affairs, curriculum, assessing the library.
- FPDS is the faculty professional development committee, review of Joshua Bartholomew and the system used for professor promotion, tenure, working with them; revisions to the faculty handbook.
- SPDC is the student professional development committee and is learning some concerns of the students.
- Faculty Publications – Randolf, Robinson, Sigmon, Bartholomew, Graves; Sigmon research leave report is posted to Moodle.
- Director of Assessment – Dr. Jeanne Hoeft; Fal23 100 students, 80 KS/20 OK, 50 M/50 F and ATS is 65% male, 35% female: racial 24 to 28% is non-white, 90% of students are UMC.

Jeanne – Retention and persistence numbers are being collected and reviewed.

2:15pm – BREAK (15 minutes scheduled)

2:48pm

### Resource Committee

Matt -

- Financially healthy, no debt, 4-5% endowment draw down, 9-10 times endowment to expenses, cash covers 6 mo. expenses, diversified revenue streams of tuition, endowment, fundraising and other.
- Mitigated risks of interest rates
  - Prairie Capital – rate duration short
  - Alternative investments in real estate and private loans vs low rated bonds
  - Operational money to treasury back sweep account to invest over 5% for a 6 to 12 month operational expense.
  - No debt, so no floating rates.
- Audit completed by RubinBrown with the report being presented 11/29.
  - Net assets increased \$1.4 million.
  - Draw down was only \$1.1 million.
  - Assets increased 1 to 2%
  - Draw down 3.3%
- Accolades to Tammi Allensworth, especially with her work on the audit, internal controls
- Concerns
  - Only 30, not 35 new students Fal23, although retention was higher.
  - Tuition hours/revenue down by 9.5%
  - 46% taking 6.5 cr hrs or less, revenue hurt this year, but will be recognized in future.

Jay –

- Tom Thompson presentation on our advancement department, fundraising future, campaign, planned giving.
- No mid group of \$5k to \$25 or the six/seven figure group of sustained donations. Build up donor base.
- Alumni group with help by Alanna Ireland in OKC
- Public campaign in future, based on campaign readiness and feasibility with a campaign council.

Linda – people are taking less cr hrs per term; mid-tier incomes/salaries have not increased in the Midwest.

Neil – Candler, Duke, Garrett, Perkins have 100% tuition & how does Saint Paul leverage themselves to students.

Shannon – entire institution needs to work to make it happen; can't pinpoint exact reason a student goes to other school vs SPST, and it's not necessarily 100% tuition; still have to work, still run a church(es), family, etc.

**3:23pm**

**Governance Committee**

**Dana –**

- Matrix
  - Skillsets - academics, investments, legal, Oklahoma, W. Kansas
  - Need 12 to 21 board members, will be at only 10.
  - Petz, Tindall, Tex, Amy gone in June.
  - Need to replace up to 5 board members to be around 15 members.
- Add member
  - Shannon Dyer - COR member, Ottawa faculty in communications, gay women bible study, active board member
  - **VOTE – APPROVAL of adding Shannon Dyer to the Saint Paul Board of Trustees**
    - **(NO MOTION) COMMITTEE NOMINATION – those in favor – ALL ATTENDING BOARD MEMBERS – YAY**
    - **Those opposed – NONE OPPOSED**

**3:28pm**

**Trust and Collaboration Task Force Committee**

**Dana –** Needs grant from GBHEM to move forward. Waiting to see how this is funded before proceeding as that may determine how this is completed.

**3:29pm**

**Amy –** steps out and appoints Linda Shipman to head remainder of Friday's meeting.

**3:30pm**

**Faculty Presentation**

- **Dr. Jacob Randolph**
  - **Anxious Bench**, <https://www.patheos.com/blogs/anxiousbench/author/jakerandolph/> - What About the Palestinians? Southern Baptists vs. Southern Baptist Missionaries, part 1

**4:10pm**

**Strategic Planning Committee**

**Tex –**

- 4.5% operating budget is rare in higher education.
- KPI's are updated, 8 existing goals, with focus on 2, 3, & 5
- Strategic planning task force has provided a rough draft of new goals to executive committee.

**Sharon –**

- After ELT review, and some adjustments made, will present new goals to faculty.

**Matt –**

- Ahead of schedule.
- Board approved plan.
- 4.5% contingency went towards podcast room and travel to Korea recently.
- 3 proposed future goals to be presented to staff.

**Jay –**

- Matt organized support to the board of Jennifer taking notes and minutes at meetings, and Tiana documents to portal and website, as this is all part of our re-affirmation efforts,
- As president, the strategic plan will go to the community as a whole, with a town hall with faculty & staff, then back to the BOT. Hope to have this presented at April board meeting.

**4:20pm**

Discussion of location of Trinity United Methodist Church and where to meet once there, for the Saturday portion on the board meeting.

**4:26pm**

**Closing Prayer**

**David Wiggs**

**4:30pm**

**Dismissal**

## Saturday, October 21, 2023

Board Members Present: Amy Hogan, Tex Sample, Mark Faulkner, Sharon Cleaver, Linda Shipman, Tino Herrera, David Wiggs, Arden Borgan

Guest Present: Neil Blair, Jay Simmons, Sharon Betsworth, Shannon Hancock, Jennifer Smith

*\*(Note – some members arrived late due to a Kansas City Marathon being ran near Trinity United Methodist Church, with many roads impassable. Jennifer Smith, note taker and compiling of minutes arrived at 9:50am, so there are some early gaps in what was discussed).*

**9:00am**

**Opening Prayer**

**Mark Faulkner**

**9:05am**

**Welcome to Trinity UMC, Panel Intro, Church Context**

**Tino Herrera**

- Justice Ministry and Housing
- Mercy Ministries – Baby Grace, Gilmore Meal, Lord’s Table, Pantry

**9:55am**

**Alum and Kansas City Urban Church Leadership**

**Tino Herrera -**

- Works with KC Tenants
  - Housing trust fund
  - Safe and affordable housing
  - Housed are paying rent and doing small jobs.
- Can COR be part of this movement; COR pastors would need training and professional development.
- Strengthen community.
  - Jobs for Justice
  - KC Tenants
  - Tamale Kitchen (which Trinity is sharing church kitchen space with them).
- Small Groups
  - Aged 20 - 40 like to meet at pubs.
  - Aged 70 - 80 like the Gilmore industries.
- People want engagement.
- Community needs near church.
  - Grocery store
  - Laundry Mat
  - Affordable rent
  - Medical needs

**Jay** – Bishop Farr has many maintainers and wants entrepreneurial leaders for urban and rural churches.

**Amy** – need to build up Laity; Latinx has 6 teachers that have graduated out of the program; Kansas has 23 land based colleges, and they could be online; ELL/ESOL programs could be in a church setting.

**David** – more churches are actually closing and not necessarily due to disaffiliation.

**10:25am**

**Trinity Tour**

- Chapel, KC Tenants office, Kitchen, Tamale Kitchen, Various Offices.

**10:40am**

**Shannon** – possible conduct Saint Paul’s weekly worship from various urban churches to spotlight them and their unique needs.

**10:45am**

**Micro Justice Practices**

**Tex –**

- Small acts and actions done very well.
- Train people to work in culturally traditionalist areas.
- Justice Ministries
  - Bible
  - Spirituality
  - Change
  - Disciple Leadership
  - Non-Violence
  - Conflict / Controversy
  - Prison Ministry
  - Cheerleading / Pat on back
- Scripture is a practiced event beyond the walls of the church.
- Scripture became justice.
- Text needs to be embodied.
- Bible is the cradle where Christ is laid.
- Micro-practices can turn into macro-practices, one step at a time.
- Prison is church and practicing resurrection.
- How to address anything and everything as a Christian.
- Work on micro practices to become macro realities.

**Amy –**

- Site the student who needs you the most and you can change the dynamics of the room.
- 40 days and/or 40 practices to make something a habit.
- Others can witness these practices and examples.

**11:35am**

**Open Discussion**

**Upcoming Board Meeting**

- More conversations spurred by Tex and others.
- Conversations on urban areas and church ministries and society.
- **No mention of upcoming board meeting agenda or tasks.**

**11:58am**

**Closing Prayer**

**David Wiggs**

**12:00pm**

**Dismissal**