

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Governance Board Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2018 7:00pm

Governance Board members (BOLD indicates attendance at meeting):

Rev. Craig LaSuer – Lead Pastor	Emalee Decker Havel – Chairperson, Rep for Youth
Jim Beaty – At Large Member	Karen Hull – Secretary
Robin Bellinger – Finance	John Jones – Church Treasurer
Don Caddy – UMM and Trustees	Taylor Owings – Rep. of Young Adults
Nick Clinkenbeard – At Large Member	Chip Rutledge – At Large Member
Nola Gentry – UMW and Lay Leader	

Others in attendance: Jan Beaty, Shari Bittles, Steve Bittles, Rev. Billy Bross, Ann Caddy, Dorothea Goold, Rev. Jack Hartman, Larry Huggins, Lola Huggins, Stu Kline, Suzie Kline, Susie Loughner, Ronda Kroeschen, Chuck Newton, Diane Stott, Mary Welch

Opening

Emalee Havel, Chairperson, opened the meeting at 7:03pm

Opening Prayer offered by Emalee Havel

Teaching and Spiritual Formation Portion of Meeting

Devotions offered by Rev. Craig LaSuer

Taylor Owings gave an overview of our next study book The Switch by Heath and Heath It focuses on change.

Reading assignment for March 2018 is Section #1

Progress Toward Goals Portion of Meeting

Mission and Vision Initiatives Update offered by Rev. Craig LaSuer

Klondike – Rev. Denny Frank

Klondike Kids Club, a after school homework club for children K-3 living at Point West mobile homes had a soft opening on Monday and first day with children is Wednesday. 28 children are registered. Volunteers are from FUMC and Purdue school of education. We have had generous help with supplies and books.

Purdue University through Wesley Foundation – Rev. Glen Robyne

Thank you to Shari Bittles and youth counselors for running with Christmas Eve

There will be a celebration lunch of the lower level renovation on Sunday Jan 21

Spiritual Development – Rev. Craig LaSuer

We have lots of classes, thankful for children and youth. Spiritual development happens in all four worship services.

Brainstorm/input for 2018 GB calendar

Chairperson Emalee Havel asks for a list of tasks that belong on calendar from finance, trustees, SPRC, WIRED, etc.

Reports and Decisions Portion of Meeting

Approval of the minutes from November 2017 Governance Board meeting

MOTION to approve made by Chip Rutledge. **Motion seconded** by Nola Gentry.

Motion approved.

Electing a vice chair

MOTION to elect Jim Beaty to Governance Board as a member of the Class of 2021.

MOTION to approve made by Taylor Owings. **Motion seconded** by Nola Gentry.

Motion approved.

Treasurer Role Open / Celebrate John Jones

John has been unable to come to meetings so he is resigning as treasurer. Emalee thanks John for his many years of service.

Don Caddy is chair of nominating committee and will work on finding new treasurer.

Discussion of Rev. Bross' SPRC amendment motion

Chairperson Emalee Havel reminded everyone of our communication covenant and said she would be giving each person a chance to speak before anyone was given a second chance to speak.

Background: Rev. Billy Bross brought this motion to the November Church Conference. After some discussion and on the recommendation of Rev. Kate Walker it was delayed for a future church conference, originally agreed to in January. Several members of the GB met with Rev. Bross in January to discuss the motion, and we agreed to postpone a possible church conference until February, we made some changes to the motion together and agreed to stay in dialogue.

The motion as it currently stands is:

I move to amend the alternative Governance Model to include a Committee of 3-9 persons to assist and advise the Staff Parish chairperson and the Governance Board on matters related to Staff and Pastor relations.

- The committee shall have the responsibilities to advise and support the Governance Board in the execution of their duties as set forth in the Book of Discipline when functioning as the Staff Parish Relations Committee.

- The committee members are to be nominated either by the nominating committee or from the floor of the Church Conference and elected by a simple majority of those attending the Church Conference and subsequent annual Church Conferences
 - Committee members are elected to serve a 3-year term
 - Initial members are to be organized into classes with one third each in terms of one, two, and three years
- {End of motion}

Views expressed during the Governance Board discussion

- Agree that we need to get more people involved. Emalee Havel is working on a congregational gifts survey with Church Administrator, Ronda Kroeschen.
- This motion is a very formal way to get more support
- Help with job descriptions would be good
- Church conference not needed
- The motion almost forms two SPRCs
- Muddies the direct chain of command with administrator
- SPRC is a big responsibility on top of all GB responsibilities
- Formal nature of motion is a concern
- Appears to be a way to begin to unravel new governance structure
- Nola is an amazing SPRC chairperson
- Need more people than just Nola to support the staff
- How do we best support the staff?
- Concern that we are creating two SPRCs
- GB as SPRC is to help move mission and vision forward. Another SPRC might have other goals.
- Confidentiality is a concern
- We could handle this without a motion, bringing in help for SPRC, as we do for trustees and finance
- Concern for whether a separate SPRC would support the pastor
- Appreciation for conversations with Rev. Bross
- Defined and specific help would be good
- Concern about unintended consequences of formalizing this with a motion
- If there is a divisive issue someday, two SPRCs would not be helpful
- GB is learning as we go and we can definitely make improvements
- This appears to send us back to old governance structure
- More interested in how we can improve missional outreaches
- Prefer non-elected teams

Views were expressed both in favor and against the motion.

Views in favor of the motion

- This group would assist and advise
- Congregation doesn't feel involved
- Church exists for the benefit of the members and to make disciples for Jesus
- Staff need to feel like they have someone to go to when they have concerns
- Rev. Bross is trying to be helpful

- Liaison relationships may be more important with changes
- This is not a threat or an ambush
- The whole purpose is to assist in getting more of the congregation's input

Views against / with concerns about the motion

- Process is so important
- How did the five people for the new SPRC group get chosen?
- Lack of understanding for why the staff needs more support
- Staff should handle concerns directly with one another
- SPRC can be a complaining body
- Proposed new SPRC was chosen by Rev. Bross and is a wonderful group but not fully representative of church

General comments during discussion

- Appreciation for open conversation
- Concerns about job stress
- There are lots of communications and decisions ahead
- Can we learn and create a hybrid model
- Feeling that church did not to participate in electing GB officers
- Rev. Bross is ok with the GB nominating process which is chaired by Don Caddy

Outcome of discussion

- It was agreed that Rev. Craig LaSuer would ask DS Rev. Michelle Cobb to call a church conference for a Sunday after worship in last February or early March
- We will vote on process first, then later and separately people to fill new SPRC if the motion passes

Finance

Emalee Havel, chairperson began the Finance portion of the meeting at 9:07 pm

She shared the following email from Robin Bellinger, Finance Chair, who was unable to attend.

EMAIL FROM ROBIN BELLINGER

Dear FUMC GB Members.

Upon review of the finance reports released this week, we are not in a position to provide a financial report for tomorrow's GB meeting. The Operating Report needed was not easily accessible and significant errors occurred in the reports released. I am hoping that the GB and church members will understand the circumstances given standard end-of-the-year delays in reporting – a need to wait for expense documentation and banking information, Ann's resignation, the search for a new Finance Secretary, temporary assistance and the time needed to transition and adapt to processes given changes in staffing.

I will work with Karen to coordinate a January meeting to 1) review final and accurate year end documents and 2) to discuss the 2018 budget.

Robin

Emalee Havel thanked Robin and affirmed Nola Gentry, Ronda Kroeschen and Dan Heman for all the work and help during our time of transition in financial secretary position.

SPRC

Nola Gentry, SPRC chairperson began the SPRC portion of the meeting at 9:10 pm

The financial secretary position is open. Current needs are being met with assistance from Dan Heman's office, Patty Whaley, and Lola Huggins. Position is advertised to congregation and will be advertised to community. Anne Kolodny took a new position in Indy and left with short notice.

DS Michelle Cobbs is filling in for DS Chris Newman-Jacobs

Trustees

Emalee Havel, chairperson began the Trustees portion of the meeting at 9:15 pm

She shared this email report from Don Caddy:

- We will be starting a campaign to raise money to replace the lights in the AC. There are only a few left working and the parts for them are no longer available. The Foundation has agreed to match any money we raise before the end of January. The estimated cost for the AC is \$18,000. The same will need to be done in the CLC eventually and the cost for that will be around \$28,000. Any money we raise in excess of what we need for the AC will go in to a facilities fund maintained by the Foundation to be used for capital repairs on the facility.
- Please be careful when coming in to the church. We try to maintain the walks and parking lot but we cannot always get everywhere precisely when needed so there may be slick spots.
- I will work with Rhonda on the list of facility decisions that need to be made over the course of the year. She gets all the contracts and I am working with her to start reviewing them since this is really a staff function.

Other Discussion

Jim would like to discuss forming a mission team

Diane Stott is feeling alone in mission team and also stated that Foundation needs spending priorities from GB rather than individual funding requests.

For March meeting

- Discuss how mission funding decisions are made, support for Diane Stott
- Discuss spending priorities for Foundation requests

Closing

Closing Prayer offered by Karen Hull

Meeting Adjourned by Emalee Havel

Reminders

Next Governance Board Meeting, Monday March 19, 2018 at 7pm

Respectfully submitted,
Karen E. Hull, Secretary