

**First United Methodist Church West Lafayette
Governance Board Meeting
March 18, 2019 at 7:00 pm, Activity Center**

Attending: (Governance Board Members) Jim Beaty, Nick Clinkenbeard, Don Caddy, Kathy Lenz, Rev. Steve Bibb, Jana Day, Chip Rutledge, Emalee Havel, Larry Huggins

(Congregation and Staff) Rev. Lana Robyne, Rev. Glen Robyne, Dorothea Goold, Rev. Billy Bross, Rev. Denny Frank, Jane Creswell, Jan Beaty, Claire Brigham, Diane Morrison, Lola Huggins, Ann Caddy

AGENDA

Welcome and Opening Prayer (Glen Robyne)

Chair opened meeting at 7:04 pm

Teaching and Spiritual Formation Portion of Meeting

Devotions (Rev. Steve Bibb) from *A Guide to Prayer for All God's People* by Norm Sawchuck and Bishop Rueben Job. 2 Corinthians 4:1-7 Treasure in Clay Jars.

Progress Toward Goals Portion of Meeting

Interim Ministry Process Update (Rev. Steve Bibb)

- Video about AI (Appreciative Inquiry) from Jackie Kelm and discussed how he will be using these concepts at FUMC. AI is a system where we acknowledge that there is something that is working in every organization. More focus on strengths, the more they emerge and strengthen and negative things weaken and fall away. AI equals positive transformation; a “generative” approach
- Belief is a huge factor in what we can achieve
- Book: *The Joy of Appreciative Inquiry* by Jackie Kelm
- Referred GB to David Cooperrider for more information about AI.
- www.AppreciativeEngagement.com
- Three handouts: Interim Report to GB dated 3/18/19, Classes of Organizational Changes, drawing of Organizational and Emotional Structures (systems).
- Steve's next focuses are internal/external communications, staffing,

streamline

Vision Initiatives Update (Rev. Steve Bibb)

- April 1, 6:30 pm date for Bylaws meeting
- Steve will set up Doodle Poll to determine date for GB retreat
- Steve will set up Doodle Poll to determine date for Money Summit
- Don offered to help with Doodle Poll if needed
- All agreed best time for meetings was evenings.

Steve distributed handout “Classes of Organizational Changes”

- Change over the past 15 years at FUMC has been profound (pastor changes, new church building, loss of key members.
- Most of what has an impact on the church is outside the church, but we bring those changes into the church
- Typical planning is obsolete
- Question is not how to do plan, but how do we prepare for intentional future? Being prepared rather than plan is key. Especially true in the long term because change is hard to predict.
- Planning tends to be incremental but long term profound changes make planning difficult
- Biblical—prayer and preparation, not planning and prediction “God does planning, people do preparing”. We allow our hearts to be captured by God and trust that God will help us. Spiritual preparation—vision and commitment can inspire and energize.
- A congregation is an emotional and organizational system
- FUMC has had profound changes in past that haven’t been dealt with well or at all, but FUMC framework is bent, not broken
- Fruitful initiative bent the framework, but the cracks are on-going
- Nick asked: how do we move forward? When are we going to see goals and implementation? When do the changes start? Members need to see changes soon and plan for rest of 2019. What is the plan to turn things around?
- Steve replied: Organizational and emotional systems is not supporting change right now. Members may not be aware of the foundational changes that are being made now. One issue Steve is facing is that there is no good way for Steve to address the

congregation as a whole [multiple services].

Reports and Decisions Portion of Meeting

Approval of Minutes (Jim Beaty) January 21, 2019 Governance Board meeting minutes: Changes noted and approved.

Motion: Chip Rutledge

Seconded: Nice Clinkenbeard

Ministry Reports

Wesley (Glen Robyne)

- Semester retreat in a week
- April—Spring Blast (spring clean up project, similar to Winterization), Grand Alternative (Grand Prix party alternative), senior banquet and retreat
- Hosted friends from Africa recently to go to General Conference—delegation of four from Congo
- Van used for spring mission trip to Washington DC
- Will be going to Africa in June

Klondike (Denny Frank)

- Now in second year, have math matters, lunch buddies, read to succeed and Koder's Closet projects. FUMC has been very generous—example, over 100 pairs of new shoes donated in past 18 months.
- Kid's Club is thriving; this year serves K-5 grades. Very dependent on volunteers, have 2 paid staff, lots of Purdue volunteers, FUMC volunteers take over when they are on vacation.
- Lettie Mitchell has written enough grants to ensure money for one more semester.
- Taking Point West kids to zoo, fire station, Imagination Station, Channel 18, etc. Donations from FUMC cover field trip fees
- May schedule family cookout/community dinner
- Getting reports back from teachers who are seeing positive changes in the 25-30 kids program is serving. Jim—can we bring this info in picture/video form to congregation? Denny: happy to work on this.

Children's Ministry (Shari Biddles submitted written report to board)

Youth (Glen Robyne)

- Everyone Drinks lock-in well attended
- Confirmation, May 5
- Mission trip change: plan to go to Haiti in July has changed due to unrest there. Puerto Rico is option. 9-10 Jr High youth; 12 Sr High youth going
- Wednesday program numbers are down to 3-6 each week.

Older Members (Denny Frank)

- Lay movement from Wednesday morning group (?) of about 8 people who want to help serve shut-ins. This will be a good addition to her current ministry. Not all are housebound, but many feel isolated.
- Currently serving 38 families/individuals

Misc items (Steve Bibb)

- Neil McTavish mentioned Teen MOPS member is interested in expanding clothes closet operation to ministry at FUMC. Steve wants to encourage this.
- Annual conference June 12-15. Need delegates. Let Steve know if you are interested. Billy Bross pointed out that election of delegates from Indiana will be made there, so important. Steve commented that none of the pastors from FUMC can vote because members of different conference. Normally a lay delegate for every appointed pastor.
- Jana Day asked if we can include attendance numbers for all church events. She would like to see specific numbers for children and other programs as well.

Welcoming Committee (Debbie Given)

- Debbie distributed handout "Proposed LGBTQ+ Welcoming Actions" outlining 8 proposals to be implemented:
 1. Small rainbow flags (similar to the one currently at the end of the driveway) will be placed along our frontage with State St. Flags to be acquired at no cost to FUMC.

2. Basketball poles in front parking lot will be wrapped in rainbow colors.
 3. Existing church yard signs will be adapted with a rainbow and placed in yards by interested members.
 4. Flyers advertising our Easter services including a rainbow symbol will be distributed.
 5. Rainbow logo will be included in church ads and promotional materials.
 6. Welcoming statement and rainbow symbol will be posted prominently on FUMC website and social media.
 7. Invitational posters/flyers will be posted on Purdue campus including rainbow symbol, welcoming statement, and FUMC information.
 8. Programming for LGBTQ+ inclusion will be developed (to be approved prior to implementation).
- Discussion of these proposals: many concerns about additional flags or signs posted in front of church near road. Jim said we need to establish a policy about additional signage/flags. Steve said that approval of proposals is his responsibility but wanted to run by GB. Emilee pointed out that Trustees usually make decisions about additional signage. Continued conversation about sensitivity to all church members regarding this issue.
 - Steve said his priority is to include this in his communications improvement. At the top of his list.
 - Denny—is there a way we can implement first 4 items before Easter? FUMC needs to be a part of the process to speak out against General Conference vote. Steve replied that advertising for Easter includes rainbow symbols
 - Debbie—go ahead? Jim replied that this should be referred to pastoral staff. Debbie’s group will talk to pastoral staff.
 - GB members all commented that they are concerned with trashy look of many signs in front of church near the road.

GB Teams (Jim Beaty)

- Secretary position should be found by nomination committee (Don Caddy and Steve Bibb). Nominations process should be refined by Bylaws.
- No one has volunteered to Steve
- Suggestion to look at Time and Talents Survey

Finance/Stewardship (Taylor Owings/ Rev. Steve Bibb)

Still working on budget.

Trustees (Don Caddy)

- New bus has logos on it. Saved enough money by buying used bus, so can also replace van with a slightly used one. Would like to get 12 passenger Ford Transit—safer, more comfortable.
- Narthex—“skunkworks” project with Betsy Marti and Susie Cline to make the narthex more inviting. It is a work in progress at this time with no deadline.
- Lettie Mitchell’s proposal for shelter in back of church needs to raise money for build and maintenance. Unsure of plan; refer to Lettie.
- Copying—Trustees would appreciate having documents for BG sent in advance and posted on-line ahead of time. Need to set deadlines and enforce. Rather than printed copies of agenda, could we put on the screen at GB meetings? Reminder that agenda items are due 2 weeks before meeting, ministry reports are due 1 week before meeting.

SPRC (Jana Day)

Has descriptions for staff and Fruitful committees—now is the time to merge them into one

Need to meet with individual staff to better understand what they do
Nick—is long term goal to be measurable? Jana—yes. Have found that what the Fruitful committee planned and what the staff has written about their responsibilities and what they actually do are very different.

Jana—No decisions being made now; just information gathering.

Liaison Committee (Chip Rutledge)

No report. He has not yet received the minutes of Liaison Committee, but good turnout for both congregations. KDC congregation is expanding, especially youth. Some talk of joint choir concert. Steve—on June 2 there is a joint luncheon planned that FUMC will host.

UMW (Kathy Lenz)

Has met with UMW Executive Board and will be meeting with all Circles.

Treasurer (5 minutes) (Larry Huggins)

- Contacted last week by Edward Jones and told that long time church member Lucille Deaderly (sp?) has funds to donate, approx. \$45K. Funds will be transferred to Morgan Stanley acct. Doesn't know if designated use from estate. Will put in holding account until find out. Larry created the transfer account as requested by estate.
- Fairly substantial change in pattern of contribution this year. \$42K less contributions in Jan and Feb compared to last year. Only difference in past two years is that several people are no making large annual contributions.

Closing

Closing/ Announcements (Jim Beaty)

Closing Prayer (Steve Bibb)

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 pm

Upcoming Meeting May 20, 2019 at 7pm (third Monday of odd months)