

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Governance Board Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2017 7pm

Governance Board members (BOLD indicates attendance at meeting):

Rev. Craig LaSuer – Lead Pastor

Karen Hull – Secretary

Robin Bellinger – Finance

John Jones – Church Treasurer

Don Caddy – UMM and Trustees

Sarah Kelly – SPRC

Nick Clinkenbeard – At Large Member

Taylor Owings – Representative of Young Adults

Nola Gentry – UMW and Lay Leader

Chip Rutledge – Chairperson of Board

Emalee Decker Havel – Representative for Youth

Others in attendance: Kathy Abrahamson, Jan Beaty, Jim Beaty, Shari Bittles, Rev. Billy Bross, Jana Day, Rev. Denny Frank, Debbie Givan, Bob Givan, Suzie Kline, Barbara Krause, Joy LaSuer, Susie Loughner, Rev. Lana Robyne

Opening

Chair of Governance Board, Chip Rutledge, opened the meeting at 7:05pm

Opening Prayer offered by Chip Rutledge

Teaching and Spiritual Formation Portion of Meeting

Devotions offered by Rev. Craig LaSuer

Rev. LaSuer reflected on the book of Acts and what it says about the sometimes expressed idea that the church is a business. The church is not a business. We are called to be the body of Christ, led by Jesus. We are to follow the Spirit, pray, and love one another.

Discussion of PART TWO of *Winning on Purpose* by John Edmund Kaiser

We had a discussion about the Great Commission, what it means for our church today, and how and to what extent it drives what we are to be about as a church and how we measure success. Also important to the discussion were the Greatest Commandment and the need to care for those who are vulnerable and hurting.

Assignment for April 17th meeting is to read Part THREE: ‘Do We Know What Position to Play’ which includes Chapters 7-11.

Reports and Decisions Portion of Meeting

Approval of the Minutes from February 2017 meeting

MOTION to approve made by Don Caddy. **Motion seconded** by Nick Clinkenbeard.

Motion approved.

New Sanctuary Ministry Request

Suzie Kline provided a document with a proposal for starting a new ministry called the New Sanctuary Ministry. Suzie addressed the Governance Board to share what has happened in the past in the effort to build a new sanctuary and to give the reasons she would like to see the effort resumed.

Rev. Craig LaSuer honored Suzie for her passion and work in the new sanctuary effort. He provided the Governance Board with photocopies of section 2544 of the UMC Book of Discipline. That section is titled *Planning and Financing Requirements for Local Church Buildings*.

Discussion followed.

Rev. LaSuer suggested that a small group be brought together to discuss in more detail and then bring some thoughts for the full Governance Board to consider at the next meeting. The group will include Suzie Kline, Rev. Craig LaSuer, Robin Bellinger, Don Caddy, and Taylor Owings, with permission to add others. Karen Hull will provide email addresses to Suzie Kline. Suzie will schedule the first meeting of the group.

Everyone Means Everyone Group

Debbie Givan presented on behalf of the Everyone Means Everyone Sunday School class and their work seeking to build greater inclusiveness for the LGBTQ+ community at FUMC. A one page document was provided to the Governance Board in advance of the meeting with a proposed motion, background on their class, and what they plan to do in the near future.

Discussion followed.

MOTION:

A Welcoming Task Force (or Welcoming Exploratory Committee) will be established to carry out a process of study and discernment regarding inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons at FUMC. The task force will consist of members of the Everyone Means Everyone class, as well as other congregational members interested and concerned about the process. The task force will write a Welcoming Statement to show others that we as a congregation have committed to being truly welcoming to the LGBTQ+ community. Once the task force has confirmed broad congregational support for formally adopting the Welcoming Statement, a congregational vote to do so will be proposed to the Governance Board by the task force.

Motion to approve made by Sarah Kelly. **Motion seconded** by Karen Hull. **Motion approved.**

Finance Meeting

Robin Bellinger, Chair of Finance, opened the Finance meeting at 8:07 pm

Finances at end of February were as follows:

Budgeted income: \$120K; Actual income: \$105.5K

Budgeted expenses: \$124K; Actual expenses were \$132K

In mid- March income was \$137K and expenses were \$151.6.

Timing is always a factor in looking at any snapshot because of when pledge income is received and when expenses occur.

On a quarterly basis, a more detailed budget will be shared and can be posted to the website.

Stewardship will require a team and we have not begun to move forward on that yet.

Finance meeting closed at 8:14 pm by Robin Bellinger

Trustees Meeting

Don Caddy, Chair of Trustees, opened the Trustees meeting at 8:14 pm

Don is continuing to work with Deanna Bibler about potential additional security for VNS.

Enviromax has been asked to do an assessment of all heating units. It is exploring whether there is a more efficient unit to be used for gradual replacement of our current units.

Don was thanked for getting working panic buttons installed.

Persons coming to FUMC in need of financial assistance should be referred to Lafayette Urban Ministry.

Jan Beaty and Shari Bittles were thanked for their ongoing work to clean up the basement. We must be careful about accepting donations. It is costly to have stuff hauled away that we do not need. We can refer people to Surplus and Salvage if they need to get rid of large items.

Trustees meeting closed at 8:28 pm by Don Caddy

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) Meeting

Sarah Kelly, Chair of SPRC, opened the SPRC meeting at 8:28 pm

Sarah attended Northwest District SPRC training last month. Nola Gentry went to the Lay Leader training.

Sarah handed out a document titled "Indiana Conference Annual Assessment between Clergy and Staff-Parish Relations Committee" that she received at SPRC training. This is to be completed between August 1 and November 30.

SPRC meeting closed at 8:30 pm by Sarah Kelly.

Progress Toward Goals Portion of Meeting

Vision Initiatives Update offered by Rev. Craig LaSuer

Rev. LaSuer shared a handout with all present entitled "Achieved and Planned Ministry in 2017 for First United Methodist Church's VISION". It is available on the website.

Other Vision updates presented verbally included:

- Aldersgate Handbell choir collaborating with Purdue Bells and Agape Ringers on April 8

- Wesley fellowship space renovation planning continues. Betsy Marti has met with students and has many ideas. UM Men have offered to fix lighting and ceiling. Mindy Appold is looking at outside area with landscape architecture class. All are invited to April 8 Wesley Gala.
- Rev. LaSuer shared about spiritual growth
- Shari Bittles shared that there were 55 children in preschool Bible time
- Nola Gentry shared that St. Andrew is hosting an event about prison ministry on Tues. April 11 at 7pm
- Rev. Lana Robyne shared about the mission trip that just returned from Haiti. The trip included the Robyne family, 5 FUMC youth, 2 FUMC parents, and 5 college students. The money we raised in Christmas 2015 for building a school at the orphanage has been used to build 5 round hut classrooms. Wonderful addition. They took 17-20 suitcases of supplies and donations were best quality they had ever received.

Robin Bellinger invited everyone to attend Rev. Jim Morin's book signing event on Sat. March 25.

Closing

Closing Prayer offered by Don Caddy

Meeting Adjourned by Chip Rutledge at 8:49pm

Reminders

Read Part Three (Chapters 7-11) of *Winning on Purpose* by John Edmund Kaiser for March meeting
Next Governance Board Meeting, Monday May 15, 2017 at 7pm in room 209

Respectfully submitted,
Karen E. Hull, Secretary