

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Governance Board Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2017 7:00pm

Governance Board members (BOLD indicates attendance at meeting):

Rev. Craig LaSuer – Lead Pastor	Karen Hull – Secretary
Robin Bellinger – Finance (via telephone)	John Jones – Church Treasurer
Don Caddy – UMM and Trustees	Taylor Owings – Rep. of Young Adults
Nick Clinkenbeard – At Large Member	Chip Rutledge – Chairperson
Nola Gentry – UMW and Lay Leader	Open – Open spot on Governance Board
Emalee Decker Havel – Representative for Youth	

Others in attendance: Randy Bellinger, Shari Bittles, Rev. Billy Bross, Ann Caddy, David Caddy, Dorothea Goold, Gus Gustafson, Sally Gustafson, Dan Heman, Suzie Kline, Anne Kolodny, Brian Martin, Diane Stott, Bill Walker

Opening

Chip Rutledge, Chairperson, opened the meeting at 7:07pm

Chip Rutledge welcomed everyone and explained reasons for several absences. Don Caddy is traveling for work, Taylor Owings has a coaching commitment, Nick Clinkenbeard is with his wife while she is in the hospital.

Opening Prayer offered by Chip Rutledge

Teaching and Spiritual Formation Portion of Meeting

Devotions offered by Rev. Craig LaSuer. A reading of Philippians Chapter 2

Progress Toward Goals Portion of Meeting

Mission and Vision Initiatives Update offered by Rev. Craig LaSuer

- A few months ago, a member of the congregation came to Rev. LaSuer wanting to go deeper in the faith. Rev. LaSuer recommended some books and they met a few times to discuss. The member wanted to find a small group to grow and study with. Rev. LaSuer worked to form that group and they met for the first time last night. Reid and Khala Hochstedler are leading the group. By leading they are growing as disciples and also helping make disciples.
- New members class has 13 people in class (note: Karen misreported during the meeting Actual number is 15). One person shared that the youth group has been a beautiful blessing to help their child be willing to go outside their comfort zone in beautiful ways.
- We have wonderful adult education classes. Ginny Dienhart is leading Disciple Fast Track. We have wanted this class for several years and celebrate that it is being offered and well attended.
- Eric Barker has been preaching less in WIRED with his new responsibilities. Others are stepping up to preach, for example Kory Pritchett, who preached beautifully recently. These folks are growing as disciples and helping others become disciples.
- Shari Bittles has many ways that she helps the children grow as disciples with service projects such as letter writing to the elderly.

- Judy Grimmer shared a testimony in worship about how this church has disciplined her and others. She said this church put a new song in her heart.

Reports and Decisions Portion of Meeting

Approval of the minutes from August 2017 Governance Board meeting

MOTION to approve made by Nola Gentry. **Motion seconded** by Robin Bellinger.

Motion approved.

Update on the Governance Board retreat offered by Vice Chair, Emalee Havel

Governance Board met for 4 nights at the end of August and early September. Rev. Jack Hartman was there for 3 of the meetings to facilitate and his participation was very valuable.

- We needed this time to get to know each other, to listen to each other, to feel comfortable enough with each other that we can disagree, and to trust each other such that we can come to consensus and move forward with one voice.
- Due to the productivity observed as a result of the retreat, future “work sessions” will be scheduled and announced as needed where no action will take place. These will also serve as “Staff Parish Relation Committee” meetings where business is confidential.
- We discussed at length and started to prioritize the things that need to happen to fully benefit from the Streamlined Administration Model and the Governance Board structure, and to realize our church vision. Some of these include strong leadership from our senior pastor, training and empowering our staff to be managers where they are leading our congregation into ministry, and the nuts and bolts of communications, meeting agendas, and other details.
- we spent a hunk of time reflected on the SPRC training session and materials that Dr. Aleze Fulbright gave and that it was very helpful since several folks on the GB didn’t have prior SPRC experience
- We decided to read the book “The Switch” by Chip Heath and we welcome the congregation in joining us in the reading and discussion.
- We spent time talking about GB goals and looking at the transition from church council to GB for SPRC, finance, and trustees.
- We learned that Chip was an accomplished song writer. He blessed us with the creation of our own Governance Board song!

Update on posting for open Governance Board position

There is an open position on the GB which is being advertised in the bulletin. Anyone interested in being considered can contact Don Caddy.

FCJ Staffing report motion

Chairman Chip Rutledge said there was a motion tabled at the last meeting and asked how the board desired to proceed with it.

MOTION to bring the motion back on the table made by Emalee Havel. **Motion seconded** by Nola Gentry.

Motion approved.

The motion reads: I move to request authorization from the Governance Board to authorize the chairperson to request funds from the FUMC Foundation for a year's salary for the Church Administrator position.

MOTION to withdraw the motion made by Nola Gentry. **Motion seconded** by Robin Bellinger.

Motion to withdraw approved.

MOTION made by Nola Gentry: To accept the report from the FCJ Staffing Task Force as a good reference and benchmarking document with the thanks of the Governance Board to the FCJ Staffing Task Force.

Motion seconded by Emalee Havel.

Discussion

Next steps will include the Board acting as SPRC and may result in changes in position descriptions, job assignments, and accountability.

Motion approved with Don Caddy and Nick Clinkenbeard voting in absentia.

Finance Meeting

Robin Bellinger, Chair of Finance, opened the Finance meeting at 7:34 pm

Robin provided a written report prior to the meeting. It is available on the website under the News tab.

Expenses are about the same this year and last year. Income is \$2,600 less than last year. Overall this year is similar to last year.

Sunday September 24 there will be a picnic and entertainment to kick off stewardship with a celebration. October 15 will be Commitment Sunday. A celebration brochure and commitment brochure will be given to the congregation.

Finance meeting closed at 7:36 pm by Robin Bellinger

Trustees

Don Caddy was not present. Don is looking at what needs to be in the budget for next year and invites input.

We have two lawn movers for sale, purchased in 2011 or 2012, on 48" and one 60".

Two new movers were generously donated.

Chip Rutledge made a **MOTION** to thank the anonymous donor of the new mowers. **Motion seconded** by Karen Hull.
Motion approved.

Closing

Closing Prayer offered by Emalee Havel

Meeting Adjourned by Chip Rutledge at 7:42pm

Reminders

Governance Board work session on Thursday October 12, 2017 at 6pm

Next Governance Board Meeting, Monday November 20, 2017 at 7pm

Respectfully submitted,
Karen E. Hull, Secretary