

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**Annual Church Conference and Governance Board Meeting Minutes**  
**November 20, 2017 7:00pm**

**Governance Board members (BOLD indicates attendance at meeting):**

<b>Rev. Craig LaSuer</b> – Lead Pastor	<b>Karen Hull</b> – Secretary
<b>Robin Bellinger</b> – Finance (via telephone)	John Jones – Church Treasurer
<b>Don Caddy</b> – UMM and Trustees	<b>Taylor Owings</b> – Rep. of Young Adults
<b>Nick Clinkenbeard</b> – At Large Member	<b>Chip Rutledge</b> – Chairperson
<b>Nola Gentry</b> – UMW and Lay Leader	<b>Jim Beaty</b> – (Elected during Church Conference)
<b>Emalee Decker Havel</b> – Representative for Youth	

**Others in attendance:** Jim Beaty, Randy Bellinger, Shari Bittles, Rev. Billy Bross, Craig Dobbins, Rev. Denny Frank, Gus Gustafson, Sally Gustafson, Larry Huggins, Lola Huggins, Sarah Kelly, Stu Kline, Suzie Kline, Anne Kolodny, Ronda Kroeschen, Vanessa Martin, Cary Mitchell, Chuck Newton, Rev. Lana Robyne, Ellen Wilson

**Opening**

Chip Rutledge, Chairperson, welcomed everyone at 7:05pm

**Opening Prayer** offered by Chip Rutledge

**Devotions** offered by Rev. Kate Walker. A reflection on Titus 3:14 “And let people learn to devote themselves to good works in order to meet urgent needs, so that they may not be unproductive.”  
Prayer offered by Rev. Kate Walker

Rev. Billy Bross made the following **MOTION**, seconded by Chuck Newton.

I move an amendment to the alternative plan of organization to include a Staff-Parish Committee of five persons to assist the Staff Parish chairperson and the governance board and that the committee shall have the responsibilities set forth in the Book Of Discipline for Staff Parish Committees and that the committee be nominated and elected by this Church Conference and subsequent annual Church Conferences and that the committee be organized in classes chosen by lottery for terms of one, two, and three years with subsequent members elected for terms of three years.

Discussion

Question raised if this is a special Church Conference or a Church Conference?

Supporting information offered by Rev. Billy Bross:

- Five people are present this evening willing to serve on SPRC
- This would benefit staff, SPRC is a big job
- Could assist GB with job descriptions
- Staff would be assisted
- Communication to and from congregation would be enhanced

Worthy motion, but usually we receive motions ahead of time for appropriate consideration.

Perhaps we could have another Church Conference in January to vote on this motion. The motion would be put online for all to see. Our next Governance Board meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of January is a possibility.

Rev. Kate Walker said the District Superintendent said that this was a special Church Conference.

There was much discussion about the purpose of the annual Church Conference being a time for the congregation to hold the Governance Board accountable. Annually we need a process for reviewing and amending. Tonight is part of the learning process. It was suggested that perhaps in future years the report is submitted ahead of time for the congregation to review and then questions and motions can be submitted and published in advance for action at the Church Conference.

Rev. Steve Clouse explained the difference of Church Conference and Charge Conference. The Governance Board is duly appointed as the Charge Conference, so we don't need another Charge Conference.

The agenda for a Church Conference must be published two weeks ahead of time and items cannot be proposed on the spot.

Rev. Kate Walker said we are all learning together tonight and she declared that this is a special Church Conference.

Changes to the structure should be voted on in a Church Conference.

Rev. Kate Walker recommended that Rev. Billy Bross's motion be referred to a Church Conference in January and asked him if there was any reason it could not wait.

Rev. Billy Bross agreed but said he was disappointed.

### **Annual Special Church Conference**

Rev. Kate Walker called the annual special Church Conference to order at 7:44 pm

### **Annual Report to the Congregation**

Chairman Chip Rutledge shared highlights from the Annual Report to the Congregation

#### **Discussion and questions**

Has the Governance Board established boundaries? Chip Rutledge said boundaries are in the Guiding Principles.

### **Status of the Mission and Vision**

Rev. Craig LaSuer and others shared about the Core Values in Action and the 3 vision initiatives.

#### **Wesley Foundation Vision Initiative – Rev. Lana Robyne**

- Winterization had 1450 volunteers, and enjoyed food help from Rev. Craig and Joy LaSuer and Jane VanScoyoc

- They are enjoying the refinished basement. Thanks to Don Caddy for lighting.
- Students are supporting each other through lots of struggles
- Wesley supports students
- Still to do with basement remodel is carpet and furniture.

#### **Spiritual Growth and Connections – Karen Hull**

- We have several new teachers and small group leaders – we are making disciples
- There were 15 people in new members class who celebrate finding a wonderful youth group, beautiful sermon messages, opportunities to serve and becoming connected
- The team is Rev. Craig LaSuer, Rev. Lana Robyne, Ginny Dienhart, Debbie Givan, Neil McTavish, Judy Grimmer (who recently moved), and Karen Hull
- An Advent devotion class will be offered Dec 3 and 17 based on Father Richard Rohr's Preparing for Christmas Daily Devotions
- Shari Bittles celebrated 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Bible learning this fall and presentation in worship

#### **Klondike – Rev. Denny Frank**

- Thursday 23 children were registered for the “Phase 2” Kids Club at Point West
- Advisory Council has 2 FUMC staff, 3 lay people (Max Hoke, Nancy Wills, and Britney Bullis), and will add parents
- Interviewing will happen soon for site supervisor and teacher’s helper
- New member Roger Salazar said he could help with translation to Spanish
- Brian Martin will help with technology
- Bus to Point West has 88 children grades K-3. We will need at least 5-6 volunteers each afternoon
- We have received generous gifts from memorial donations and Foundation.
- Grants have been applied for – Letty Mitchell is leading this

#### **Election of new Governance Board member**

Don Caddy explained there was a nominating committee and it was posted to the congregation that we had a position to fill. After meeting with candidates, one candidate remained interested.

Chip Rutledge made the following motion

**MOTION:** To elect Jim Beaty to serve on the Governance Board as part of the Class of 2021.

Discussion

Term begins immediately. No second needed.

Motion properly before us, Rev. Kate Walker called the question.

**Motion approved.**

#### **Closing of Church Conference**

**Meeting Adjourned** by Rev. Kate Walker at 8:20pm

Evening continued with the Governance Board meeting beginning at 8:29pm

New member Jim Beaty joined the Governance Board

### **Reports and Decisions Portion of Meeting**

Approval of the minutes from September 2017 Governance Board meeting

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

**Motion approved.**

### **Mission Funding Discussion**

Tabled because Diane Stott was not present

### **Korean Disciples Church usage charge discussion**

Background and discussion

Rev. Craig LaSuer celebrated that KDC worships in our building and shared that they had a beautiful Thanksgiving choir.

Relationship started in 2013

Usage charge started at \$500, signed agreement

In 2014 new signed agreement increased to \$750.

We were asked to have them pay less when they decided to become a UMC.

Usage charge went down to \$300, but was never signed.

Governance Board had a conversation in October and decided \$500 was appropriate.

Rev. Steve Clouse from Church Development was present. Rev. LaSuer asked him to speak because he has worked closely with KDC.

He said they have been adopted as a church plant. The goal is for them to be fully constituted and chartered. The second pastor was tasked with that. He was there for 9 months in 2016-17, but then a change was needed in March 2017. For 6 months Rev. Clouse preached every Sunday and had an Ad Council with them every Sunday after worship for 3 months, educating them in UMC governance.

To charter, they must be financially self-sufficient including paying a tithe to the conference. If they have a higher FUMC usage charge it will take them longer to ramp up to chartering. They got a grant to afford a full time pastor. Giving at KDC is down 30% because of the upheaval. They have been asked to start tithing to the conference, but haven't given anything yet. The conference is supporting KDC, not the other way.

Rev. Clouse is hoping they will grow and has told them it would be poor stewardship to stop worshipping in our building. If they can become chartered they will be able to contribute more to FUMC financially.

Question was raised about a Korean pastor in Rensselaer that we were supporting, but that is not ongoing.

**MOTION:** That we set the KDC usage charge to \$300 and review in 6 months. **Motion made** by Don Caddy. **Motion seconded** by Taylor Owings.

Chip Rutledge asked liaison committee to continue to meet. Sally Gustafson says she has tried to schedule meetings. Chip Rutledge asked Rev. Steve Clouse to help make those meetings happen.

We (the liaison committee) will request a quarterly financial report from KDC.

Question was asked how many other churches financially shepherd other churches. Rev. Steve Clouse said about 25 churches in the conference right now are currently in relationship with congregations from non-Anglo groups. And hundreds of churches do it. \$750 is high for a usage fee in his experience, \$300 is middle.

Restating the motion

**MOTION:** That we reduce the KDC usage charge from \$750 to \$300 and review in 6 months. **Motion made** by Don Caddy. **Motion seconded** by Taylor Owings.

Question: what are the utility bills in this church?

We budgeted \$30K for electric and we will go over. Total is \$45-50K in utilities.

KDC has offered to help with maintenance of property. They redid flower bed in June.

**Motion approved.**

#### **Activity Center Light Fixtures motion**

**MOTION:** To ratify the decision made in October 2017 to request approximately \$17,000 from the FUMC Foundation for new fixtures and controls.

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

**Motion approved.**

#### **Vote on GB slate of officers**

**MOTION:** To approve the following slate of officers for the 2018 Governance Board:

Chairperson: Emalee Havel

Secretary: Karen Hull

Finance: Robin Bellinger

Trustees: Don Caddy

SPRC: Nola Gentry

Note: Vice Chair will be elected in early 2018.

**MOTION to approve made** by Don Caddy. **Motion seconded** by Jim Beaty.

**Motion approved.**

#### **Finance Meeting**

Robin Bellinger, Chair of Finance, opened the Finance meeting at 9:10 pm

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

We need to be mindful. Expenses are keeping in line. Income is the concern. We need to keep a plea out to the congregation.

Jim and Eileen Morin are making calls to follow up on pledges. We are short in the number of people pledging and the amount pledged.

On December 11 we are planning a finance meeting to discuss budget,  
Finance meeting closed at 9:14 pm by Robin Bellinger

### **Trustees**

Don Caddy, Chair of Trustees, opened the Trustees meeting at 9:14 pm

The Boy Scout troop has completed repairs on the bridge to Hort Park.

There was a light pole at the driveway entrance that came down during construction. It should be going back up.

The electric bill is very high. Don is trying to figure out why and whether it is rate or usage. Nola suggested asking Duke to do a walk through.

### **Closing**

Rev. Craig LaSuer affirmed Chip Rutledge for his service to the Governance Board.

**Closing Prayer** offered by Chip Rutledge

**Meeting Adjourned** by Chip Rutledge at 9:20pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen E. Hull, Secretary