

Report of the Governance Board
First United Methodist Church West Lafayette
Year 2

The Governance Board was established in January 2017 to oversee the mission, vision and ministry of the church and to hold the ministry areas accountable for their goals. The Board functions as officers for the corporation, functions as Trustees, and oversees Finance and Staff Parish relations.

The 2018 Governance Board members include:

- Emalee Havel, Chair and Representative for Youth
- Rev. Craig LaSuer, Head Pastor (through June 2018)
- Rev. Steve Bibb, Head Pastor (July 2018 start)
- Jim Beaty, Vice Chair
- Karen Hull, Secretary (till November 2018)
- Robin Bellinger, Finance (till February 2018)
- Taylor Owings, Finance (November 2018 start) and Representative of Young Adults
- Don Caddy, United Methodist Men and Trustees
- Nola Gentry, United Methodist Women and Lay Leader (till February 2018)
- John Jones, Treasurer (till January 2018)
- Larry Huggins, Treasurer (September 2018 start)
- Kathy Lenz, Lay Leader and United Methodist Women (September 2018 start)
- Jana Day, Staff Parish Relations (November 2018 start)
- Nick Clickenbeard
- Charles (Chip) Rutledge

In 2018, the Governance Board met publicly every other month starting in January. The Board continued the practice of conducting each public meeting with the agenda devoted to: (1) Teaching and Spiritual Formation, (2) Progress Towards Goals, and (3) Reports and Decisions. The spiritual formation portion of the meeting was accomplished by the lead pastor conducting a devotion. The

teaching section of the meeting was devoted this year to the review of the book The Switch by Heath and Heath. This book provided valuable information regarding organizations facing change and transitions. The second portion of the meeting was a discussion of Progress Toward Goals. The reports sections included reports on Finance, Staff Parish Relations and Trustees as well as reports from ad hoc and subcommittees of the Board. Members of the congregation were encouraged to attend the meetings and participate in the discussion. In addition, the Board met regularly throughout the year to prepare for meetings, training, and to meet as the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC).

Highlights of Board Activities and Actions

- At each meeting the Board monitored progress on our vision, including: (1) Klondike Schools and Families, (2) Purdue through Wesley Foundation, (3) Spiritual Growth and Connection. We were also made aware of various initiatives of Core Values in Action.
- Operating as SPRC, the Board worked with the conference in the appointment process to welcome Rev. Steve Bibb and the intentional interim ministry process to replace the retiring Lead Pastor, Rev. Craig LaSeur.
- Operating as Trustees Committee the following actions were taken:
 - New light fixtures were purchased and installed in the Activity Center upon completion of a successful financial campaign and support from the Foundation.
 - New trees were planted following an outside gift.
 - Working on replacing interior lights with more efficient LED bulbs.
 - The building was pressure washed.
 - The outside lights were converted to LED to save energy.
 - The kitchen water heater will be replaced by year end.
 - Phone and internet service providers were switched to Uplink and Wintek due to better service and lower cost.
 - The existing church bus, which was showing its age and miles will be replaced with a newer bus in January 2019 through funds from the Foundation.

- Operating as the Finance Committee, the Board approved an operating budget for 2018.
- Operating as the Finance Committee, the Board appointed Rev. Steve Bibb the leader for the 2018 Stewardship Campaign.
- Operating as SPRC, the Board approved the transition of church accounting practices to an outside accounting firm with coordination from FUMC staff.
- The Board informally supported the actions of the Everyone Means Everyone class seeking to conduct a congregational survey assessing congregational support for a welcoming statement and listing with the Reconciling Ministries organization.
- The Board approved a request by the Everyone Means Everyone class to conduct an All Church Meeting and vote on a proposed welcoming statement and to be included on the Reconciling Ministries website. The motion was approved by church vote on August 26, 2018.
- The Board accepted and blessed ministry reports detailing progress, including from: Wesley Foundation and FUMC partnership, Klondike School and Kids Club, Children's Ministries, and Music Ministries.
- A task force consisting of Jim Beaty, Don Caddy, Emalee Havel, and Steve Bibb has been formed to study and recommend bylaws for FUMC upon the suggestion of the conference. This group will meet in early 2019.
- The Board finished review and discussion of The Switch.
- A great deal of thoughtful discussion among the board and meeting participants took place throughout the year regarding how Streamlined Administration is intended to work, the pros and cons of this structure, the pastoral appointment process, and suggestions for the future.

Changes in Board Composition, Organization and Structure

- Jim Beaty was elected Vice Chair of the Board.
- John Jones resigned from the Board in early 2018 but graciously provided assistance until a replacement was made. Larry Huggins became Treasurer in September 2018. The Board thanks John for his years of service to FUMC.
- Robin Bellinger resigned from the Board in February 2018. The Board thanks Robin for her service. Bill Walker helped with Finance till June 2018

when Chip Rutledge stepped into the Finance position on an interim basis. Taylor Ownings was elected Finance Chair in November 2018. Nick Clickenbeard will serve as assistant.

- Nola Gentry passed away in February 2018. Upon her death, the UMW representative, Lay Leader, and interim SPRC Chair were left open. Don Caddy and Emalee Havel served as interim SPRC Chairs while the Nominating Committee sought a permanent SPRC replacement. We celebrate Nola's life and years of service to FUMC. In September Kathy Lenz was elected to the Board to serve as Lay Leader and UMW Representative. In November, Jana Day was elected to serve as the SPRC Chair.
- In November 2018, Karen Hull resigned from the board. The Nominating committee is currently seeking a replacement. We thank Karen for her many years of service to FUMC and church governance.
- Rev. Craig LaSuer retired from pastoral ministry in June 2018. Rev. Steve Bibb was appointed as an Intentional Interim Minister.

Reflections on 2018 and the Future

2018 was a year of much transition for FUMC and the Governance Board. We said goodbye to our pastor, Rev. Craig LaSuer and welcome to Rev. Steve Bibb. We saw many changes in the membership of the Board and we grieved the loss of our wonderful member and church leader, Nola Gentry. The Board and FUMC coped with open leadership positions in SPRC and Finance for much of the year. After operating in the Streamlined Administrative structure for one year, the Board was better equipped to communicate this structure to the congregation and the Board better understood changes needed going forward.

A task force has been formed to write by-laws for FUMC. These by-laws are necessary when operating in a structure outside the Discipline and have been requested by the conference.

As we head into 2019, most of the empty board positions have been filled by highly qualified leaders. The Intentional Interim Ministry process has been initiated by Rev. Steve Bibb. The Board has approved that Steve remain till June 2020.