

**Annual Report of the Governance Board
First United Methodist Church West Lafayette
Year 1 2017**

The Governance Board was formed as a result of the Fruitful Congregation Journey that began for FUMC-WL on October 16, 2014. The Streamlined Administration Model Report approved by Church Council contained a recommendation that a Governance Board be formed with the role of policy and accountability to provide directional leadership for the church. The Governance Board was designed 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 first Governance Board was approved at the November 21, 2016 Council/Charge conference. The members were nominated by the Lay Leadership committee of the church and were:

Charles (Chip) Rutledge, Chair

Rev. Craig LaSuer, Head Pastor

Karen Hull, Secretary

Robin Bellinger, Finance

Don Caddy, United Methodist Men and Trustees

Nola Gentry, United Methodist Women and Lay Leader

Emalee Decker Havel, Representative for Youth

John Jones, Treasurer

Sarah Kelly, Staff Parish Relations

Taylor Owings Representative of Young Adults

Nicholas Clinkenbeard, At-large member

Our first official meeting was held January 16, 2017 but we met for an informal planning meeting on December 10, 2016. At this planning meeting it was decided to meet once a month, generally the third Monday of the month. We also reviewed the FCJ Streamlined Administration Report and the Guiding Principles approved by Church Council. Each meeting of the Board would have sections devoted to: (1) Teaching and Spiritual Formation, (2) Reports and Decisions, (3) Progress Towards Goals. The teaching section would begin by review of the book Winning on Purpose by Edmund Kaiser. This book provided background information for the FCJ Streamlined Administration report. The reports sections would include reports on Finance, Staff Parish Relations and Trustees as well as reports from ad hoc and subcommittees of the Board. The third portion of the meeting would be a discussion of Progress Toward Goals. Members of the congregation were encouraged to attend the meetings and participate in the discussion. The Board held meetings in January, February, March, May, June, August and September. In addition, a twelve hour retreat was held over four days in August.

Highlights of Board Activities

The Board finished review and discussion of Winning on Purpose.

At each meeting the Board monitored progress on our three vision initiatives: (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.

The Board approved an expanded template for Developing a Ministry.

The Board approved a motion to form a Welcoming Task Force to carry out a process of study and discernment regarding inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons at FUMC-WL.

The Board approved the forming of a New Sanctuary Study Task Force to explore the building of a new sanctuary following the guidelines outlined in the UMC Book of Discipline.

The Board approved accepting 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.

Changes in Board Composition, Organization and Structure

Emalee Decker Havel was elected Vice Chair of the Board.

Sarah Kelly resigned from the Board and Nola Gentry became the interim leader of SPRC activities of the Board. A call has been made to the congregation to recruit an additional Board member. The Board thanks Sarah for her service to the Board.

The Board attended a training session led by Dr. Aleze Fullbright. This session provided guidelines for evaluations of Pastors and staff. The Board engaged in a process of evaluation of Pastors Craig LaSuer, Glen Robyne and Lana Robyne. This process was led by Nola Gentry.

Chair Rutledge appointed a subcommittee of Nola Gentry, Chair, Taylor Owings and Emalee Havel to study the FCJ Staffing Task Force and to make recommendations to the Board concerning changes in staff responsibilities. Pastor LaSuer and Chair Rutledge attend ex officio.

Outcomes of the Board Retreat

The Retreat provided an opportunity for Board members to establish trust among themselves so that they can come to consensus and move forward with one voice. Our discussion benefited from the leadership of Jack Hartman, our facilitator at the retreat.

The Board discussed at length and started to prioritize activities that need to happen or continue to happen to fully benefit from the Streamlined Administration Model and the Governance Board structure, and to realize the vision for the church. Some of these include strong leadership from our lead pastor, training and empowering church staff to be managers to lead members of our congregation into ministries, and the nuts and bolts of communications.

The Board working as SPRC will work to align staff with the mission and vision of the church. This may include changes in : position description, time allocated to various positions, salaries and wages and accountability.

We agreed as part of the Teaching Agenda of future meetings that we would study the book Switch by Chip Heath and Dan Heath.

In one of our lighter moments at the retreat the Board Adopted a song called We are Your GovBoard to the tune of You are my Sunshine.