



## GOVERNING BOARD MEETING by ZOOM

April 13, 2021

Bob McKnight	Kathy Breazeale	Dian Wiley
Roger Curless	Pastor John Bell	Regrets: Mary Terrell
Wally Loague	Jim Merk	Guests: Meredith Lindgren, Genevieve Akyea

**Worship** – Roger led us in a Meditation on Bearing Fruit. Notice how an apple grows, how their stems cling fast to the branches, how branches are firmly attached to main trunk and how the roots go deep and wide in the soil. Isn't that a picture of the kind of Christian we should be?

How is Wesley bearing fruit? Are there elements that may be like the fig tree – not producing fruit and is it time to cut them down? As we plan to come back together, how can we begin to grow God's fruit today?

**Minutes** – The minutes April are posted.

**Report on Summer Worship & Re-opening**- The Re-opening taskforce of Jim Merk, Meredith Lindgren, Genevieve Akyea, Roger Curless, John Bell and Jenny Pawlowski will be meeting again. The worship team has been meeting and discussing how to proceed. Cases of Covid 19 are declining. CDC mask requirements are changing. There would need to be training for Greeters and Ushers and seating configurations. Would registration be needed to attend: (As of now vaccinated people do not count towards maximum attendance amounts). One plan discussed is to have a soft opening, over the summer with limited attendance. The other consideration is the amount of time and effort the staff has had to put in to produce the online worship. Combining that with in-person is almost time prohibitive for them. We are in the process of hiring an audio/visual tech person to take over the online worship production, but they may take a few weeks. In person cannot start until Michelle is freed up from her present tech role. It may be possible to start fulltime in person in mid-august with restriction (with masks, no singing, etc.) It may also be possible to have a 1 service "watch party" at the church (those gathered watch the online worship) and then have communion in person. We will need to revisit the re-starting of a two service time later on in the year. The sanctuary would be easier to social distance in, and the 85" new monitors will be installed next week, cleaning restrictions are must looser now, but the air flow (which is especially important) is not as manageable in the sanctuary as it is in the Gathering Place). There is also the question about unvaccinated children at this time and their contact with everyone else. We must remember that John Wesley said, "First do no harm".

John shared the results of the congregational survey about re-opening. There were 60 responses. It was pretty evenly divided about the comfort level of returning or not returning

yet. It seems that there is not a majority of people that are wanting us to rush to re-open. John will work on a document that explains how the Taskforce, The Governing Board and the Worship Team, (mentioning the results of the survey) has been studying and working to make this all possible. He will send to the GB to review before it is published to everyone. Our guests from the Task Force said goodnight and signed off.

**SPRC Pastoral 2021 Evaluation** – The 12 focus areas of compiled answers were reviewed prior to the meeting. No changes were suggested. It was agreed that Pastor John has done an excellent job shepherding the staff and congregation through the unprecedented times of the pandemic. He has done an excellent job with sermons, teaching, administration and his leadership in many areas. A discussion was held to list two strengths/skills that John will continue to develop and two areas of growth we would like him to address. What is God calling the church to do in the next 12 months? Pastor John, the Coordinators and the Governing Board will be a part of the effort to restart ministry and outreach as we come back together in person (and maintaining an online presence) and to implement the adopted 7 areas of focus: Marketing and Promotion, Technology, Worship and Re-opening the Building, Congregational Care, Discipleship, Outreach and Mission and Administrative Support.

**Pastoral Housing Allowance Adjustment** – The Governing Board voted to redistribute the allocation to \$42,808.00 base compensation and \$45,000.00 for housing.

**Endowment Fund** – The Endowment committee has been working with our new financial advisor to set procedures and goals.

**Trustees** – the wiring for the new sanctuary monitors is complete and they will be installed. A training session will need to be held. The ceiling in the loft area that houses the pipes for the organ has collapsed in on the pipes creating quite a mess. Wally is checking into what our repair process should be. Jim has discovered a blockage in a drain spout at roof level. The roofing company will have to be called to clear it out.

**Stewardship Campaign** – John reported it was a successful campaign with pledges totaling approximately \$267,000.00 (very close to 2020 amounts). There are still 10 regular givers who have not responded, and we have 7 new giving units.

**Video Editor Taskforce** – We received 12 applications. John has done 5 phone interviews. In person interviews will be set up in the near future.

**Congregational Communication Plan**- John will have Jenny issue an updated, divided directory to members of the Governing Board. Personal choice of Email and or phone calls will be made to everyone to check in on how our congregation is doing and giving an update on our Re-opening progress and other church news. John will produce a prompt script for the Board.

### **Reports from Coordinators and Staff**

Pastor John reported that Michelle Curiel is looking into alternative ways to do a VBS and checking what would provide for the needs of our neighborhoods. She would like to concentrate on building relationships.

Confirmation will resume in the fall. There is a Pride Drive planned with mural projects to be worked on at Wesley.

The Staff is taking a worship break on Sunday May 30th.

### **Other**

Wally reported that the Scout Master, Sarah Bragg, has contacted him asking for directions on the troop's usage of the Blackhawk name. It was agreed that this is an excellent time to have a discussion about this issue with the scouts and to teach how we can be respectful to our Native American ancestors. John and Roger will also talk to Sarah.

John closed the meeting in prayer at 8:10pm.

**The next meeting will be June 22, 2021 at 6PM – In Person.**