



GOVERNING BOARD MEETING by ZOOM

May 4, 2020

Kathy Breazeale Jim Merk Bob McKnight
Roger Curless Pastor John
Wally Loague Mary Terrell, absent

Worship –We each lit a candle at home. Wally led Worship. We remembered that this is the 75th anniversary of V E Day, then Allied forces declaring victory in Europe at the end of WWII. We are in a different war now, with the Coronavirus. We ask God to hold the families of all these souls that have lost close and grant them mercy.

Minutes of our last meeting are posted on the website.

Discussion of YouTube and online church and Conference activities

Roger reported on the District Superintendent Lay Leadership Zoom meeting he attended. Church attendance, stimulus money, caring for buildings and properties while closed and communion online was discussed. Basically, online communion is not permissible in the United Methodist tradition, because it is to be done in the “gathered Community”, but not necessarily in a church building. Also, we may want to investigate Facebook advertising. We should keep in mind that The UMC Foundation is giving out matching food bank grants.

Stimulus Money

Wesley applied for and has received some stimulus money that will help with Nursery School Payroll, our staff payroll and utility costs. If we do not lay anyone off, we are entitled to keep the money and will not have to pay it back.

Other Discussion

We are looking at the State of Illinois and other state’s guidelines as to when we can reopen our buildings and when it will be safe to have meetings and worship. It is our understanding that it will be a slow gradual process. Maybe we will be able to have worship outside this summer (weather dependent). After the building is used there will be requirements and costs for cleaning. Roger will compose an article to be shared with all our people as to what is to be considered and how to discern a timeline. Roger reminded us of what our Bishop said “First, do no harm”.

Governing Board Book Study

Starting at our next meeting, the Board will be studying the Book “The Adept Church”, Between a rock and a hard place --- how to do long term strategizing.

Bishop's letter to Clergy and SPRC chairs

Due to the State of Illinois official shelter-in-place order our Clergy have been under deadlines and stress to quickly learn and produce worship and essential services of the church such as Bible studies, committee meetings, study groups, etc. online. Therefore, Bishop Dyck has proclaimed that all Clergy in our conference use a 3-day Sabbath once between now and the end of May. The Bishop and cabinet will offer a service that can be used while this opportunity is being taken. John is looking for our staff to also have a Sabbath from all the time they have had to put in to convert to our online Worship and other online weekly events that Thew and Michelle and Jim produce. John will let us know how this will be organized and carried out before it happens.

Hesed House is still accepting donations of food and money. They will store at their Aurora facility or transport to the hotel where they are being housed.

All Church Calling and Contacts

In the near future, we will again be calling everyone in the Directory to see how they are doing. We will also be asking how they are staying engaged with Wesley. Online worship? Classes? What opportunities are they taking advantage of?

6 Planning Areas to keep before us

#1 Reinvigorating the Chapel – finished – but celebration and rededication to be held.

#2 Congregational Gatherings – postponed

#3 January 2020 – Response to General Council developments – postponed until
Reconvened General Council – date unknown

#4 Communication Process – using Conference staff – postponed

#5 Building Community – Could continue now using social media?

#6 Energize Worship/Participation – postponed until we can gather together

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Closing

Kathy closed the meeting with prayer. Wally will do worship next week.

Next meeting: Monday May 11, 2020 by zoom at 2:00 pm.