



## **GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

**Wednesday, June 29, 2022**

### **Those in attendance:**

Pastor John Bell	DiAnn Wiley	Kathy Breazeale
Wally Loague*	Jim Merk	Bob McKnight
Jonathan Akyea	Roger Curless	Mary Terrell

### **From Staff:**

Jenny Pawlowski    Meredith Lindgren\*    Thew Elliott    Michelle Curiel

- Present via ZOOM.

### **Regrets:**

Carol Stoffel    Sean Moore

### **Opening**

DiAnn opened the meeting with a time of worship based on the Core Principles of Wesley.

The first part of the meeting was a collaboration of the Governing Board and the staff leadership.

### **Thoughts during the Collaboration**

- Adaptation. The church throughout history has been trying to adapt. Too often without the ability to adapt church (denominations and local churches) turn on one another and the result is anxiety.
- An alternative to anxiety is problem solving.

**Questions: How might Wesley become a part of the future in Aurora? How are we a resource? Where do we want to focus Wesley?**

- In conversations and interactions with others we have learned:
  - Churches that don't change or adapt are likely to die.
  - There is a need to develop a high degree of tolerance for others.
  - At one time the gatherings of the church were in homes.
  - Focus needs to be on community building not membership.

- There are lots of lonely people and there should be ways to address that loneliness.
- People who were engaged with the church out of habit rather than a discipleship connection are likely not to be back as churches reopen.
- Without growth we cannot sustain new things.
- Wesley cannot come back to the way it was and cannot sustain what we are becoming without growth.
- Time was spent with ABCD – Asset Based Community Development – and ideas and strategies from there should be re-examined.

### **What we are experiencing? Observations:**

- Program in the park – meeting people in community.
- Building relationships.
- Youth are helping others outside the church building.
- Art camps help having kids around. Have to have kids around the church.
- Programming in the community is more important than growing the numbers because we are doing God's work.
- The more programming we do, the more opportunities we will have to serve others.
- Need to be a place for people in need.
- Can we make a difference in the community? There are lots of people who have needs.
- Theme of engaging with children brings parents in.
- There are ideas but the need is for people to help. Staff needs volunteers.
- People need to know that this is a safe place.
- Programming requires finances and we need to look to other sources for support.
- Are we being strategic in what we do rather than just trying things?
- There has always been a tension between movements and structures.
- Mission is in relationship building and we are building more relationships around the community.
- We should build on the collaborative success of the Pride Parade working with New England and the Unitarian church from Geneva.

Pastor John will consolidate the notes and observations into a document of strategies and pass it around for additional comment and input. This will be a basis for strategies going forward.

**The collaboration part of the meeting was adjourned and the Governing Board moved into its regular meeting.**

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### **Congregational Care**

- Cards were circulated for the Governing Board to send to people in the congregation in need of some encouragement.

### **Finance**

- Between the giving, receipts from other sources and management of expenses no money has had to be used from the endowment to meet expenses.
- \$20,000 has now been moved from the endowment to cover summer expenses as giving is traditionally low during the summer months.
- Finance will do a mid-year review in July.

### **Trustees**

- A visit was made to a church in Kankakee to see a floor to floor elevator of a different design using hydraulics.
- The architect and contractors will have plans by the end of Jul.
- Organ – Wind chest are reinstalled.
- Organ – Everything has been put on hold as water marks were observed on the new plaster. Olsson Roofing is scheduled to look at it again before moving forward with any more work.
- Insurance has covered the \$3,000 for the piece from the room that came off during wind storm.

### **Boys Scouts**

- Bob and Roger participated in a Zoom call with the Boy Scout national organization, other United Methodist Churches with troops and conference staff.
- A new national agreement between the Boy Scouts and the United Methodist Church is scheduled to be completed by October 1, 2022.
- A new insurance plan is scheduled for implementation from the Boy Scouts by July 1, 2022.

- The new agreement will deal with roles and responsibilities, use of property and the relationship between local churches and local scout councils.
- All of the documents, directions for the conference and risk assessments will be done by the Governing Board as they completed.

### **Meeting with District Superintendent and Bishop**

The Governing Board had requested Pastor John to arrange a meeting with the Superintendent and Bishop to look at issues raised by the Governing Board in relationship to apportionments and other conference actions.

Requesting the meeting resulted in Pastor John having a conversation with the Bishop Hopkins and Rev. Bross.

- In 2021, Wesley paid its apportioned amount in full and directed all the payments to the General Church Funds. Conference records did not recognize this and there was discussion with the Bishop on Wesley's commitment to the United Methodist connection.

- Jeffrey was very supportive of Wesley's ministry and the work being done here.

### **United Methodist Footprint in Aurora**

With the closing of Flowing Forth, there are basically three United Methodist congregations in Illinois' second largest city: Wesley, Nueva Vida and Bethany of Fox Valley, which draws more from Naperville, Oswego, and far southeast Aurora rather than Aurora proper. After reviewing data on the United Methodist present in the other five largest cities in the Northern Illinois Conference there was discussion about any plans from the conference on Aurora. Pastor John will contact Jeffrey for a meeting once Jeffrey returns from his leave, later this summer.

### **Book Study**

Fresh Expressions is a movement within the United Methodist Church which began in the British Methodist Church and which has had some success in the Southeast Jurisdiction. The Governing Board will do a book study using **Fresh Expressions: A New Kind of Methodist Church for People Not in Church** by Bishop Kenneth Carter and Audrey Warren. Books will be ordered for the Governing Board.

The meeting closed with Bob leading the board in prayer.

**Next Governing Board meeting – August 17, 2022 – 6:30 PM**