

Wesley Governing Board Retreat

The Governing Board spent Saturday, September 14, 2019 in retreat at the church. This was set for the Governing Board to do some planning and considerations for the closing of 2019 and the ministry in 2020.

The retreat began with worship based on a passage from Mark where Jesus talked about not just patching up the old but moving on to something new, something innovative. “Don’t pour new wine (new ideas) into old wineskins (same way of doing things)”.

From a discussion on just what is Wesley Church and where are we unique there came six planning areas in which the congregation will be engaged. As the Governing Board engages in the planning in these areas, details will be made available to the congregation.

Plan #1 – Reinvigorating the Chapel

The plans to reinvigorate and make ongoing use of the chapel as a worship space and as a multi-purpose area were discussed.

There is still some discussion on the overall costs and as soon as a timeline begins to take shape the plans will be shared with the congregation.

Plan #2 – Congregational Gatherings

While the Governing Board has had quarterly discussion sessions open to the congregation, the plan for the Gatherings will be different. Done a couple times a year the Gatherings will be built around a specific topic area. There will be a degree of expectation that members of Wesley should be in attendance to participate. The topic for the first gathering to be held later this year or early in 2020 – What does it mean when we say we are welcoming of all?

Plan #3 – January 2020

In January 2020, the United Methodist Church is supposed enact what has come to be known as the Traditionalist Plan voted on by the General Conference in 2019. How will Wesley respond? Even with this plan in place there are other plans to come before the General Conference in 2020 and some of the elements of the Traditionalist Plan have been struck down because of the voting. As a

Reconciling Congregation Wesley has declared itself to be welcoming to all persons to be involved in our ministries

This could be the Governing Board/congregation meeting for the third quarter of this year.

Plan #4 – Communication Process

There is a need to revisit the guidelines being used for the various social media outlets for Wesley. The goal is to better and more completely communicate who we are and what we do and incorporate more videos and activities. There may be some other outlets to project Wesley into the community that we are not using.

Plan #5 – Building Community

Given that the role of the church is to build community and that Wesley has embraced that role there are some thoughts on how to build community within Aurora.

Plan #6 – Energize Worship – Increase Participation

Worship is an area of central focus in any church. With the reinvigoration of the chapel Wesley will have three different worship spaces. The large sanctuary could be discouraging to visitors with a small group in it. The capacity of the chapel is 48 which is smaller than the two current worship services.

These six planning areas will provide opportunities for all in the congregation who have interest and will move forward with as much congregational communication as possible.

The day ended with the Governing Board consecrating their work with communion. Please see any Governing Board member for additional details and watch for announcements when congregational meetings are scheduled.