



## **GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

**February 20, 2017**

Kathy Breazeale  
Bruce Lawrie  
Bob McKnight

Fred Neuman  
Bruce Lindgren  
Roger Curless

Pastor John Bell

Regrets: Wally Loague

### **Worship & Lighting of the Christ Candle**

The Christ candle was lit and opening prayers were offered. For ongoing worship the Methodist Prayer resource from [www.methodistprayer.org](http://www.methodistprayer.org) for the day was used. The congregation has been invited to share this resource as a way for guided meditation daily.

### **What Can We Celebrate Since Last We Met**

#### **- Review of the minutes from January 16, 2017.**

The minutes have been placed on the website for congregational review.

### **What do we need to accomplish in our time together today?**

#### **- District Training Event**

On January 28<sup>th</sup> there was a district training event which featured discussions on how churches can tell their story and different methods to be visible and available. Kathy, Wally and Fred from the Governing Board along with Pastor John and Wendy Connell attended. Some of the ideas that might be helpful for Wesley:

- More detailed information on new members
- Ask newcomers about their impressions of the worship, the church and why they chose to visit.
- Try to get people from the sanctuary into hospitality after the first service.
- Pastor should be available after services to meet with new people.
- Know your target group. Make use of information from [missioninsight.com](http://missioninsight.com) for demographics.
- Make use of social media particularly for posting upcoming events
- Removable bumper stickers

The ministry coordinators have also discussed the event and some of the things they have some ideas being given attention:

- Movable "sandwich board" signs for Sunday morning.
- Social media training for the congregation
- Using visits or email follow-ups on Sunday afternoon after a visitor has been in worship. Gather information on first impressions.
- Widely promote at least four really excellent Sundays
- Have the worship team debrief for a few minutes immediately after worship.

- Leadership training for people who are leading or desiring to lead small groups.
- Evaluate amount of time Pastor can spend out in the community and its effect on church program.

The four "R's" – Reach, Return, Recommend and Retain. Reach out and get people to return. Recommend where they can be involved in order to retain their connection with Wesley.

**- Discussion on Enhanced Building Security**

In the past week there was a security issue which apparently originated through the door used by People for Child Care. Some of the internal reporting is still being clarified but the police were involved and those trespassing were arrested. There was no damage to the building and it was agreed that the church would not pursue the charges against those arrested.

Pastor John is reviewing security procedures with all using the building. There is a need for different parts of the building to be able to notify the office or someone if there is a security or other kind of problem. World Relief is considering a walkie-talkie system.

The idea of a key pad entry for People for Child Care is one consideration.

**- Our Ministry Areas (Those with current items for the Governing Board)**

**Discipleship**

Two new studies are beginning for Lent.

**Outreach**

Work continues on securing both an Outreach Coordinator and an intern, probably for summer work at this point.

**Administration**

There is an upcoming Green Fair (March 11 – First UMC West Chicago) designed to help churches "go green." Jenny, our administrative coordinator would like to have a Green Task Force to continually look for ways to improve efficiencies. Bruce Lawrie and Fred Neuman indicated they would attend with Ginny. An announcement asking for people who might be interested in joining the task force will be advertised to the congregation.

**- Our Administrative Areas (Those with current items for the Governing Board)**

**Finance**

The year end statements were all issued to those who made pledges.

A letter has been received from the CPA doing the audit. It indicates that the financial information provided is making a full audit difficult because statements and reports while very close are not able to be fully reconciled. The letter does say that there are no indications of any kind of improprieties but a matter of consistent procedures not being in place. The change-over in financial systems and the turnover in those handling the financial recording has added to the difficulties in having a flow of data from one year to the next.

The board asked Bruce Lawrie to contact the auditor and arrange a meeting to see if there is any directions he can give based on 2016 to make sure we can complete a full audit for 2017. The letter also indicated there would be no charges for the work done to date.

The 2017 budget was reviewed now that the numbers are finalized. The gap between projected income and expenses is significant and reflects a pattern of passing deficit budgets over the many years. Pastor John suggested that a congregational task force be established to come up with ideas on closing the gap by increasing revenues. It should be open to the congregation because it is a congregational issue. The only area for significant budget reductions would be with staff. This task force will focus on revenue production. Kathy and Fred will work with Pastor John in creating this "idea" task force.

### **Trustees**

There is a significant leak around the east windows on the third floor in the World Relief offices. When tuckpointing was done a year or so ago this area was missed and the deterioration around the windows is severe. The estimated costs will be \$5,000.

The wood paneling in the sanctuary is warping and will have to be removed to see what is behind it. It is something for the Spring.

The water damage in the chapel is believed to have occurred before the most recent tuckpointing was done. There will need to be some plastering and painting done. *This will be a project added to the capital campaign list.*

### **Staff Parish Relations Committee**

Interviews for the replacement for Caitlyn are scheduled. Fred and Kathy will join Pastor John in the interview process.

## **What challenges, obstacles, risks are we facing? What or Who at Wesley needs our prayers today?**

### **- Discussion on Sanctuary**

Given Wesley's prominent engagement with the refugee and immigrant community and the current environment regarding immigration, there is a potential that individuals might come to Wesley to seek sanctuary. There was a discussion on thoughts about it. There are no plans for Wesley to become an announced sanctuary church because right now our facilities could not accommodate it. While the Board agreed we wait and see how things around sanctuary were going to develop it was agreed that when people come to Wesley for any reason seeking a place of refuge we can serve best by finding out what they need and then connecting them to those best equipped to handle their needs. There are some resource lists now and they will be augmented to include those who are seeking sanctuary.

- We are still in need of a secretary for the Board.

- We need to elect two lay members of the Annual Conference at the Church Conference. The Annual Conference sessions are much shorter than in the past. A description has been given to Pastor John to share with the congregation.

The meeting closed in prayer for members and friends of the Wesley family and for a request that God continue to bless the work of this church.

**Next Meeting: March 20, 2017 at Wesley**