

**GOVERNING BOARD MEETING  
 August 17, 2017**

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| Kathy Breazeale | Pastor John Bell | Fred Neuman |
| Bob McKnight | Wally Loague | Bruce Laurie |

Regrets:  
Mary Terrell  
Bruce Lindgren

**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. Psalm 90 and Isaiah 43. There was a time of reflection on the events of the past few days.

**What Can We Celebrate Since Last We Met**There was no meeting in July so the set of notes from June were the last to be reviewed and posted to the website.

The school supply give-away that was moved to Wesley this year went well with some 350 children receiving supplies.

**What do we need to accomplish in our time together today?  
  
August 23rd – All Church Meeting Regarding Capital Campaign**The congregation is being invited. There have not been a lot of calls to the office to RSVP. Board members were urged to encourage attendance.  
The meal has been arranged and Rev. John Laster will make his presentation from the findings of interviews and returned surveys. Initial reactions are positive and there will be detailed information shared.   
The Governing Board will meet briefly with Rev. Laster after the meeting to debrief on what was presented and the reactions to it from those attending.

**Annual Church Conference**The Annual Church Conference needs to be scheduled. The presiding elder will be Rev. Cynthia Anderson, lead pastor at the Batavia United Methodist Church. The date has not been set but after some discussion it was suggested that a January, 2018 date would work best given all that will need to be reviewed and approved. Pastor John will confer with Cynthia for an early January date. The model used in the past of having a light meal after second service on one of the early January Sundays was suggested.

At that meeting there will be reports and the election of the Governing Board.

There was discussion around having the themes of the Church Conference, stewardship campaign, capital campaign and the annual report of the board all be similar and related.

**Ministry Coordinators**The ministry coordinators have been doing some visions work with Pastor John. In the beginning of the single board governance, the vision that was articulated was “Gather…Grow…Go” and the ministries have been living into that vision. What is going to be needed soon from the Governing Board as well as the ministry team is visioning what Wesley will look like in 5 years or 10 years out. Perhaps a day when the board and possibly the coordinators could retreat together with a facilitator should be planned.

The facilitators have been listing the kinds of things to be worked on in the coming year. Among those being considered:

* Confirmation class will be starting. 33 weeks ending in May, 2018. There are eight ready for confirmation which will involve retreats, study and projects.
* Youth mission trip.
* Possibility of starting a Stephen’s Ministry as part of congregational care.
* Creating a transportation system for getting homebound members to church.
* Looking at more options for small groups, particularly for young families.
* Work days around the church.
* Increase the use of the facilities for weddings by making it known to the community that Wesley is available.\*\*
* Services will be broadcast on live video feed via internet by year end.
* Increasing public worship. First step will be a healing prayer service on September 18, open to anyone.
* Longer term – consider engagement with the community and how Wesley can partner more with community groups and agencies.
* Longer term – look at ways Wesley could become engaged in economic development in Aurora. It could be advocacy and promotion of issues, job training, etc.

\*\*There was a discussion on some of the ramifications that might occur offering the church for sex weddings. How would we respond should a florist or some other business refer a gay couple to Wesley. At this point, the building would not be available. By Discipline the pastor is responsible for the use of the facilities. Should the Board and congregation decide to open the altar to same sex weddings, Pastor John would need to consider the steps to take as defiance of the church’s stance would put him in the most jeopardy.

**Request from the Wesley Nursey School Board**

The Nursery School Board met on August 15 to review their current enrollment status. Enrollments are down in part because the school district now offers free pre-school and there are all-day options.

Also, the number of students enrolled that are on some scholarship assistance has increased over the past years. Many parents are looking for all day pre-school. All of this has put significant financial pressure on the nursery school.

The Nursery School Board requested that the church waive the rent and cost of the security alarm system for a total of $3,370. The board noted that there had been some voluntary salary reductions to help cover expenses.

Bob McKnight moved that the Governing Board the work of the Nursery School Board and that the church accept their recommendation to waive the rent and security costs. The board also agreed that should the financial picture improve that the first step would be to restore any salary adjustments as the first priority.

Motion seconded by Wally Loague and affirmed unanimously by the Governing Board. Kathy will communicate the response to the nursery school.

**Additional Update:**  
- Children’s Sabbath will be observed in worship on August 27. Bibles will be given to children at the second service.

- A new worship series, “The Tie that Binds” is beginning.

- The plan to hold a special Sunday for people to give to the special Sunday appeals is not going to happen. Instead, World Wide Communion Sunday will be used to lift up the causes of the special Sundays. It will promoted in the newsletter and the bulletin.

- The Endowment Committee has been meeting. A new brochure how to give will be published in October. Work is being done on developing a program for the Governing Board to review.

- Finance – Currently the church is about $5,000 behind on where it was anticipated which is positive given it is the summer.

- The Aurora University graduate intern begins working on August 28th. Janine Corbin will be working in the immediate neighborhood.

The meeting closed in prayer.

**Next meeting: September 11, 2017 – 2:00 PM**