

# WESLEY UMC AURORA ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025**

**District Superintendent Rev. Wendy Hardin Hermann** presiding called the meeting to order on zoom at 1:06 pm.

**Present:** Rev. Tammy Scott, Kathy Breazeale, Ralph Breazeale, Dave Studdard, Sarah Swanson, Herb, Emmy Lou & Becky John, Glenn Dagenais, Laurel Gilbert, Lynn Burnett, Wally & Paula Loague, Vicki Martin, Jonathan Akyea

**The meeting was opened in prayer by Kathy Breazeale.**

**The Video Message from Bishop Schwerin was shared.** He praised the fact that Apportionment payments increased this year. He praised what was accomplished and reminded that we need healthy accountability. The theme for 2025 was A year of Grace. The UMC new vision statement is to “Love boldly, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously”. We should live together practicing hope by bringing prayer and discernment into our community. Remember, the image of God was born in us.

**Pastor Wendy asked how Wesley is practicing hope.** She mentioned different ways churches in the NIC are practicing hope by ministering to a fearful immigrant community, being a part of a merger process, allowing all marriages in churches including the LGBTQ+community.

**Pastor Wendy asked What is Wesley thankful for?** We are in a discernment process to understand what selling our building and moving would mean for our congregation. The trustees are making sure the building is in the best possible shape for a possible sale. Wesley shares its space with many non-profit organizations who need the reduced cost compared to commercial real estate costs. Our adult fellowship group, Let’s Go, raised funds and donations for some of these organizations. We opened the church last winter as an emergency warming shelter for the City of Aurora and this year are helping the organizations administering a more permanent location. Sarah Swanson was thanked for her ministry to our children. A hope was expressed that we might have a traditional VBS. The non-Biblical based Art and Soul Camp we hosted did teach by example the Christian values of love and acceptance and did have a large attendance numbers from our neighborhood. Pastor Tammy expressed thanks for those persons who stepped up to take ownership of some of Michelle’s staff responsibilities when she left to become a full-time social worker.

## **Pastor’s Report**

We are in a time of discernment for the future of Wesley’s building – however there is some misinformation out in the community that Wesley is closing. IT IS NOT. The congregation will remain intact, consider our options and may sell the building and move to a different

ministry location. The emergency warming center held at Wesley was open for 45 nights and served approximately 200 unique individuals. Becoming Church in Oswego is now managing the program that is situated in a building in downtown Aurora. Pastor Tammy is working with them. The last quarter of the year Tammy was managing the care for her Dad's cancer journey and eventually his death. She and the girls were able to take a nice long road trip out west. Her goals for 2026 are to have intentional time for her spiritual growth.

### **Membership report**

There are 400 names on the membership Rolls. There were no baptisms or confirmands. Post cards have been sent to a large group of people asking them if they want to retain their membership or ask to be removed from the rolls. This is a process all Methodist churches follow. It takes several years of reading of these names before anyone is removed.

**Recommendations** - There were 0 recommendations.

### **Nominations**

The Governing Board will have no changes to its membership as all have indicated they will stay on for another year. Roger Curless will be our delegate to Annual Conference. We are allowed 1 more delegate. The motion was voted on and carried to elect these positions.

### **Clergy Compensation**

The Governing Board recommended the Pastoral Compensation package of:

Base salary \$45,700.00 (including a \$2500.00 salary increase)

Housing Allowance \$45,750

Pastoral reimbursable expenses \$5,500.00

A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Due to changes in the Conference pension program and the way it is assessed, the changes to the Pastoral Salary package will only increase church budget expenses by \$200.00.

### **Budget and Finance**

These figures will not be final until January when all of the Stewardship Campaign pledging is finalized. We did not need to take any monies from the Endowment Fund this year.

### **Other**

There is a continuing Sunday School class that meets Monday Nights that has 8-10 committed members. Also, the UWFaith is active and promoting its mission.

**Benediction** - Pastor Tammy sent us forth with prayer and blessings at 2:30.