



## GOVERNING BOARD MEETING by ZOOM

October 19, 2020

Bob McKnight    Kathy Breazeale    Mary Terrell  
Roger Curless    Pastor John Bell  
Wally Loague    Jim Merk

**Worship** –We each lit a candle at home. Wally began the meeting with prayer

**Minutes** of the last meeting are posted.

**Finances** – We have received \$189,971 in operating pledges and \$13,243 in non-pledged income. Pledges are mostly current with one exception. We have not received space sharing amounts that would have been \$8,000 because of the pandemic. Payroll expense is current. All other areas, worship, discipleship, outreach are under budget by \$25,000. The Endowment Fund has had gains of \$6214 for a balance of \$426,564. It is projected that we will have to take \$30,000 out of the endowment fund by the end of the year to cover all our expenses. A third quarter financial letter will be going out to the congregation shortly.

**Budget Process** – the Co-coordinators will submit their budgets, Staff Parish will have recommendations and our apportionments for 2021 needs to be determined.

**Stewardship Campaign**- due to everything going on, the pandemic and the election it has been decided to ask our people to continue their current giving and a new Stewardship Plan will be announced after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year.

**Protocols for services other than Worship and Election Day** – Small group protocols have been announced. The question was asked what if groups are not following these? Anyone present should call them on the lack of adherence. If they do not abide, they will no longer be allowed to use the building. For Election Day, the Commission will be using Gathering Place, the Parlor, one bathroom (for Judge use only). No staff will be in the building. John will be on-call. John would like to ask for volunteers to greet people on the outside during the day. There will be one way in, one way out. As people using the elevator sometimes have issues using it, someone on site would be helpful. If the weather is OK, the ramp can be used. Staff and trustees can monitor the building on phones and computers. The Election Commission will be responsible for all the clean-up and sanitizing afterwards.

**Capital Campaign** – Wally will put a congregational update in the newsletter.

**Congregational Small Group Feed Back** – This process was started in March, then Covid hit. Training was done Virtually. Groups met virtually. The purpose was to start with the draft of our Identity Statement and discuss wording and purpose. The largest feedback was on

language - such as the meaning and use of radical hospitality, Christian, Community, Spiritual Maturity. The Small group leaders had a debriefing meeting where they were energized and felt the conversations needed to keep going. The Taskforce recommended that we have additional Focus Groups to discuss our language questions before the Identity Statement can be finished. A lot of retired people were engaged in the initial Group conversations. The question was asked – How do we get the younger people engaged and come into discussion on a specific topic for a 1-time meeting?

The next steps would be – who organizes the Focus Groups and who leads them. John will ask the Taskforce to structure the recommendation for these Focus Groups. The information gathered from the 1<sup>st</sup> Conversations would be condensed, printed, and published so everyone has a chance to see it. Would we need to bring outside facilitators in? Every person should again be asked to participate through a phone call or by responding by clicking a link in an email. We would then have conclusions and closure and move on to the next step of adopting our Identity Statement. Then, when and if the time comes to have to decide about our denomination, we will be ready.

**Annual Governing Board Conversations** – These must be held before our December 7, 2020 Church Conference so the slate of nominations can be presented. John and Roger will send out possible dates for these individual meetings. We will also need one person from the congregation to sit in on these meetings.

**Meeting with Media Consultant Alfredo Castil Oct. 8, 2020** – everyone agreed this meeting was very worthwhile. It also corresponded with the information we received from the Methodist Communications Newsletter. We need to articulate our values, have some congregants make videos about Why Wesley is important to them – for all Social Media – so the word will spread. Michelle and Jenny have the technical ability to work on these videos.

**Worship Oct. 18, 2020.** Pastor John thanked everyone for Pastor Appreciation Sunday. We also discussed how Wesley, as a church, might participate in Reparations, as defined in the Michael Eric Dyson Book from which our sermon series was designed. We could form a Focus Group to keep eyes on how to respond in our community, financially (such as an IRA account) or monitoring policing, school, and education. So far, we have had a worship series on the Dyson Book “Tears That Won’t Stop”, a Wednesday Bible Study, and 2 group zoom book discussions. There are internal and external components to this type of community engagement. John will investigate this possibility.

**Parking spot donations** – As has happened in other NIC churches, residents and neighbors have asked about giving a donation to use our parking lot spaces. There is a liability form to be signed and an insurance requirement and it was agreed this could be a source of revenue.

Roger ended the meeting with prayer.

**Next meeting will be November 16 at 7pm.**