

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AURORA
GOVERNING BOARD SEPTEMBER 12, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Present: Pastor Tammy Scott, Kathy Breazeale, Bob McKnight, Dave Studdard, Jim Merk, Wally Loague (Zoom), Jonathan Akyea **Regrets:** Mary Terrell, Roger Curless

Opening prayer was led by Bob McKnight. Nedra and Pat Price and Ruth Ann Little were lifted up.

Trustees: Lift Up-date – Access is available, but we are waiting for city inspection before it can be used. We have ordered a new Pride flag as the existing one was in tattered condition. We have someone to install it.

Staff Parish: Annual Church Conference with our new District Superintendent Rev. Wendy Hardin-Hermann will be on September 25. The Governing Board will meet as the Staff-Parish Committee at 6:30 PM with the Church Conference convening at 7:00 pm. Pastor Tammy has recommended that Pastoral compensation remain the same with no increase.

Delegates to Annual Conference. The 2025 Conference will meet mid-June for 3 days in Schaumburg. Roger Curless has offered to be one of our needed 2 delegates. Only the registration fees will be paid this year, not the total expenses of room and meals as in years past.

Pastor Tammy: The Above and Beyond Special Financial needs Campaign raised \$63,640.00. The goal was \$40,000.00 so we were indeed blessed. This will make it possible to pay our current staff salaries through the end of the year and to also catch up on our past due insurance, property insurance, pension and apportionment conference obligations.

The 2025 Stewardship campaign will be 4 weeks themed Live Simply. Letters will be going out to congregation in September. There will be email and social media contacts. Sunday Oct. 20 will be Consecration Sunday followed by a congregational simple meal of soups and chilis with salad and dessert. Pastor Tammy will offer a small group book study and Kathy may offer a weekly prayer opportunity by zoom.

Our 2025 Budgeting process will begin after pledges have been received and necessary follow-ups made. We still may have some difficult financial decisions to be made to balance the 2025 budget.

Pastor Tammy has had a discussion with the conference's new Director of Church Development and Redevelopment, Christian Coon. She hopes to have a meeting with him soon.

Fundraising: Our fall Craft show is Oct. 19. 5 B's BBQ is Oct. 22. The shoe collection is on hold until complicated paperwork is completed.

Worship: Stewardship theme of Live Simply thru Oct. 20. Beginning Oct. 27 sermon series based on Adam Hamilton's book Unafraid. Advent theme is From the Manger which is based on the Luke story Based on Hope, Peace, Joy & Love. Bethlehem actually means "House of Bread" and we will be looking at addressing hunger.

Grant Money: We are looking at Tech Soup for a discounted price on help with our website and Quick Books. Also an organization called Grant Station has resources for non-profits. Kelly McCleary has information . about possibly approaching Bill Foster's office about financial help with our kitchen renovation. We are still waiting to hear from the NIC accessibility Grants. (Right after this meeting we received word that we will be awarded \$3,000.00 toward our remaining \$6,000.00 balance due on our new lift)

Bob closed the meeting with prayer.

Our next meeting will be Tues. Oct. 29 @ 6:30.

Dave Studdard will have opening prayer

Jim Merk will have closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Kathy Breazeale, Chairperson and Secretary pro tem