



GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

August 17, 2022

Kathy Breazeale
DiAnne Wiley
Roger Curless

Pastor John Bell
Bob McKnight

Jonathan Akyea
Wally Loague

Regrets:
Mary Terrell

Worship & Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Christ candle was lit and opening prayers were offered. Attention was given to those in the congregation in need of prayers at this time.

What Can We Celebrate Since Last We Met

Thank you cards for Michelle and Thew were signed in appreciation for the work done on the summer programs. Contact information was collected and a special email list built to invite people who participated this Summer to programs in the Fall.

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

Fresh Expressions is a movement with roots in the UK. It has become popular in the Southeast Jurisdiction and other Annual Conferences. It is processes for reaching new people in new ways. The basic text is Fresh Expressions: A New Kind of Methodist Church for People Not in Church. The Governing Board will do a book study with this text. Kathy will assign chapters for board members to lead the discussions.

Idle Free Zone Training – A request is being made for individuals to participate in collecting data on cars idling at schools during pick-up times. Volunteers are needed for the project being brought to Wesley through United Women in Faith.

Trustees Update

- The ridge cap on the roof, blown off during a wind storm has been replaced at a cost of \$3,000.
- The roof on each side of the organ lofts have been done.
- The organ lofts are done – plastering, electrical work, pipes cleaned and electrical motor being tuned.
- A drone inspection of the entire roof is being planned.

Rental opportunities for the building continue. Most recently Culture Stock visited and looked at space. The rooms that were desired have some falling plaster which will have to be repaired. It will be difficult to invite people to rent space if the space is not in good condition.

- A list of potential projects was reviewed by the Board. It was determined that the list should be part of a future strategy as most will need to be shared with the congregation and approval needed for some.
- Projects remaining from last capital campaign:
 - Ventilation in attic so insulation can be installed.
 - Concrete work outside the building.
 - Work on the parking lot.
- The eastside stairwell and the office have been repainted by the Trustees.
- It was suggested before reviewing projects with the congregation that there should be some sorting with critical work or nice to have and consider how will the project contribute to growth in participation and finances. What we are able to afford should be part of on-going conversations.

Update on lawsuit involving Boy Scouts

There are a number of plans in the works all designed to afford greater protection to groups with scout troops. The primary development at this point is that there no longer be a chartering arrangement. The corporate arrangement with troops using church buildings will have to be completed by December 31, 2022. Relationships may be more covenantal with additional protections. Lots of questions remain and guidance from the conference is still forthcoming. Currently Troop 11, which uses space at Wesley has 40 members.

Building Rental

The Governing Board is getting clarification from Wesley's attorney and a CPA on the tax ramifications of having space rented out. Another group, Invest Aurora, is interested in the space.

Fall Kick-Off

Pastor John shared three events coming in September:

- Hymn sing
- Cook out
- Training session on mutual aid – caring for one another.

New Groups

- Pastor John is organizing a men's group (Five Glasses of Beer) which will meet at the Roundhouse during the last week of the month. It will be for existing members and newcomers.
- Dianne indicated that there has been some contact with a women's group at First UMC Plainfield which may offer opportunities for women at Wesley. She will continue to work on it.

Meeting with District Superintendent

The Governing Board has requested a meeting with Jeffrey Bross in the next couple of weeks to see what the conference is planning for the Methodist footprint in Aurora and the part Wesley can play in it. With

the closing of Flowing Grace there is the Nueva Vida and Wesley. Bethany of Fox Valley has an Aurora address but is located on the far southeast side with many members from Oswego and Naperville. In order to organize the discussion, questions are to be sent to Roger. Note: that meeting will occur on Wednesday, August 31.

Annual Church Conference

The annual church conference will be held on Wednesday, October 19th. Staff-Parish will meet at 6:00 PM and the congregational meeting will be at 7:00 PM.

Finances

There have been \$86,417 in non-budgeted expenditures so far this year. All the bills have been paid using funds from the endowment. Wesley has not had a financial year lie 2022 for some time. Cash flow is being managed by drawing from the financial assets in the endowment which total around \$429,000.

Two actions were presented:

- Application for COVID relief. Note- Since the board meeting this was completed and Wesley received \$87,000.
- Take the matter to the congregation with a special appeal for \$100,000 which would cover expenses and finish the year off for apportionments.

It was moved to present the situation to the congregation. Passed with no dissent.

Pastor John indicated the need for someone to help with some financial reporting which could be done from home. Roger will help with it.

The meeting ended in prayer led by Wally and included additional members of the congregation in need of prayer.

Next meeting of the Governing Board – September 28, 2022.