

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

December 14, 2022

Attending

Pastor John Bell
Bob McKnight

Jonathan Akyea
Jim Merk

Kathy Breazeale
DiAnn Wiley

Wally Loague
Roger Curless

Excused

Mary Terrel

The meeting came to order with prayer and lighting the Christ candle led by Wally.

Kathy asked for any prayer concerns to be shared.

The people of Ukraine Jacob Cynthia H Ben Bob's brother Lee

Trustees

-- A significant amount of unused junk has been removed from all areas of the church.

-- There is one more payment to be made on the repair of the organ - \$55,000.

-- The protective covering of one of the basement windows on the west side of the building was discovered on the ground. It is likely it was removed by someone who then discovered the lower level windows do not open. There is no camera angle that covers that area but the recordings for the time around the discovery could yield some indication of what was in the parking lot.

Pastor John:

- Stewardship Campaign

Pastor John gave an update on where the stewardship campaign stands at this point.

Five new pledges have been received.

14 pledges increased their giving resulting in an 8.2% increase in giving.

One pledge reduced amount and one pledge was lost totaling \$7,600

The total pledged to date = \$232,940. The anticipated total for 2023 = \$274,380 or a 5.2% increase over 2022. 14 units increased pledge and 13 units remained the same.

There are 12 outstanding pledges with a projected total of \$41,440

The response to the campaign has been generally positive so far. For those who have not responded, it was decided to make personal calls from the Governing Board to urge completing pledge. Pastor John will provide a brief script for the call. At this point 80% of the units that have pledged.

- Apportionments

There was a discussion on whether to pay apportionments in full or leave them at about 80%. Pastor John indicated that several churches were getting to 80% and not going higher. The DS had indicated that churches should strive to at least hit the 80%. Wesley has been sending the apportionment amount directly to the general church agencies rather than through the Annual Conference but the Annual Conference does not recognize that as payment. The discussion centered around what is received from the Annual Conference to further the ministries of the local church versus holding the money to use at Wesley in its ministries as a local church.

By consensus, the governing Board agreed that there are some benefits from being a church that pays in full at this present time and the remaining \$10,000 will be sent by the conference deadline.

Staff-Parish

- The year end interviews with staff have begun and will be completed soon.
- Given the changes in staffing responsibilities the committee is beginning a process of re-writing all the job descripts.
- Staff Parish will recommend increases to the Governing Board at the completion of the interviews.

Finance

The Finance Committee will meet on January 9, 2023 to prepare the budget for 2023.

Other Items

-- There was a request to consider a public access phone somewhere in the building for emergency use. After a discussion it was determined that given the problems of running phone lines or finding a phone compatible with the existing lines and given that cell phone use in the building is easy there were more downsides to having a phone which could be used by anyone in the building. There is the fire alarm and some exploration of how other large building churches handle the situation will be done.

-- Jonathan and Pastor John met with a member of the congregation who is a marketing specialist. Basically, the first step needs to be clearly defining what Wesley has to offer and what is unique about Wesley.

-- The Governing Board will meeting on January 7th from 9:00 AM until noon to do the book study on Fresh Expressions. The meeting will be at the Merk's home, 1029 Fitzwilliam Way – North Aurora 60542.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger L. Curless, Secretary