

**THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA
GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING**

AGENDA

FEBRUARY 15, 2021 AT 7:00 pm, VIRTUAL

1. Welcome
2. Participation in a Virtual GB Meeting
3. Opening: Celebrate, Dream, Invite
4. Attendance
5. Adoption of the Agenda
6. Approval of Minutes
7. Progress Towards Goals, Approval of Reports
 - a. Finance
 - i. Summary of 2020 Operating Plan
 - ii. Summary of 2021 Operating Plan
 - iii. Approval of Operating Plan in March
 - b. SPRC
 - c. Trustees
 - d. Submitted Reports
 - e. Presentation: Family Ministry
 - f. Presentation: Missions
8. GB Business
 - a. Summary of training
 - b. Goals
 - c. Treasurer's update
 - d. Operating Policies
 - i. Approval of Operating Policies in March
 - e. Slate of Officers and Representatives
 - i. Approval of Officers in March
9. Questions and Answers
10. Announcements
 - a. Upcoming Meetings
 - i. Church Conference and GB Meeting, Monday, March 14 at 7pm
 1. Vote to approve GB Operating Policies, Operating Plan, and GB Officers
 2. Agenda items due to Bill Walker by Monday, March 1
 3. Agenda announced by Monday, March 8
 - ii. GB Meeting, Monday, April 19 at 7pm
 - iii. GB Meeting, Monday, May 17 at 7pm
 - iv. GB Meeting, Monday, June 21 at 7pm
11. Adjournment

Staff/Parish Relations Report

The Staff Parish Relations Committee/Governance Board works with the staff and congregation to focus on the relational aspects of the mission of the church.

SPRC Highlights:

1. Completion of the Employee Handbook
2. Distribution of \$2,000 in donations amongst the Staff for Christmas Gifts
3. Completion of Annual SPRC District Training

Dreaming:

1. Hiring a part time person to help with Marketing/Communications for 10 hours a week to manage newsletters, social media, mailings, and website material.
2. Returning to in-person activities and building volunteer groups for children, youth and adult outreach ministries.

Opportunities for FUMC Members:

1. Become a FUMC Ministry Team Coordinator: Adult Education, Youth, Communion, Ushers, Welcome Team, etc...
2. Phone Outreach Team: calling 5 members and regular attenders, check in with them and see how we can be praying for them.

Upcoming items:

1. Assigning a GB Member to each staff person and pastor to encourage, strengthen, and nurture.
2. Review job descriptions
3. Begin assessment/evaluation of ministries. Where are we, where do we want to be and how do we get there?
4. Provide evaluation, at least annually, for the pastors and staff. Points for evaluation: effective ministry, identifying continuing education needs, ensuring education and spiritual renewal is happening to reduce burn out.

Trustees Report

The Trustees works on the maintenance of FUMC property. The following are updates on recent work.

- A landscape contract was signed with Bellingers for 2021. Similar to last year, we plan to have the Youth install playground mulch which helps save approximately \$700.
- We have reduced the amount of plowing that is needed due to the lack of use of the south parking lot. This change will save about 25% off plowing costs.
- We have deployed new laptops and upgraded desktops. Funding for the computers was provided by the Foundation. David Caddy and Jonathan Heinz configured the computers, moved the accounts off of a personal server and on to Office 365, and are providing admin support. Their efforts allow us to cancel our service from Visual Edge IT which will save several hundred dollars per month.
- Help is needed with minor repairs and maintenance. Contact Don Caddy if you can help.

Communications Team Report

The communications ministry is focused on improving FUMCs communication. The group has focused on two key tasks:

- The refresh of the FUMCWL website
- Grant development to support strategic brand and marketing communications planning for the church.

Items the group is celebrating!

- The website is under final review and will be launched this week. We give thanks to everyone that has been involved and provided input.
- The group has had productive meetings with folks at the conference to understand the steps required to receive a grant for our strategic planning. Discussions will begin soon with a number of possible consulting groups to discern a partner to move the process forward.

Items the group is dreaming about:

- Having a website and communication program (newsletters, emails, social media) that is contemporary and meets the needs of the congregation (today and in the future).
- Extending our communication efforts to the broader community and supporting the growth of new ministries.

Upcoming Opportunities:

- Provide content: The website is a dynamic tool. Project leaders are encouraged to consider how they want their projects to be presented on the site. There is a blog function that allows topical news items to be featured – we just need to know about them.
- Engage in the strategy development process: At the core of the brand/marketing communications strategy process will be a process of gathering insights from the church community. When the time comes - Your participation will be critical.

Family Ministry Report

Our Family Ministry is lifting up small celebrations in light of the challenges we face with no in-person gatherings. Initially we struggled with some communication issues, but most of the technical problems have been overcome at this point. Although we had to experiment with different options and opportunities, we have now developed some consistency in our programming. While attendance is lower than we had hoped, we understand the lack of enthusiasm youth have for virtual programming and also the hesitancy to attend in-person gatherings outside of school. Many of our youth and children have been quarantined throughout the fall and winter, as well as our leaders. This influences our opportunities to do things together. Despite all of this, we do have several families participating in the options we have available.

Celebrations:

Youth

- July – Home-Town Mission Trip for youth coordinated by Wesley Foundation; playground mulched saving Trustees \$600 in labor.
- September – Hunger Hike: Youth participated in the last leg of Hunger Hike through the trail behind the church.
- October – Completion of Chapel in the Woods Eagle Scout Project by Clayton Drown; strong turnout for Exploration Acres and Pumpkin Carving
- November – Participation in Wesley Foundation Winterization Community Service Project
- December – Participation in LUM Jubilee
- February – Ice Skating and participation in Food Finder's Truck Service Project scheduled
- When special events are not scheduled, youth meet twice a month on Zoom for a devotion and games with Grace UMC, and twice a month for in-person games and devotion. Sunday School is also offered weekly.

Children

- In December, Children's Ministry switched from offering morning Sunday School to offering an afternoon Zoom Craft session with Pastor Lauren from 4:00 – 4:30 pm. The purpose of this Zoom meeting is twofold: to address low attendance at Sunday School and to give Pastor Lauren an opportunity to engage with the children. This ministry has been successful within its limitations, and we continue to gain new people each month.
- Worship Express is available in a weekly, virtual format and can be accessed at any time.

Dreams

- Youth Ministry would like to participate in a Home-Town Mission Trip again this summer.
- Children's Ministry would like to plan an outdoor VBS Day Camp that will meet in person.

Opportunities for Support

- Each month Children's Ministry assembles craft bags and delivers them to interested families. Goody bags are included in these for upcoming holidays. We could use some assistance assembling craft supplies and delivering to families.
- We need to assemble a team to begin planning for our summer VBS Day Camp and future ministries in the fall.
- We are seeking outdoor service opportunities for our Youth. If you are aware of an opportunity, please let Pastor Lauren know.

Missions Team Report

The Missions Team formed in November and we have been very busy over the last few months. In December, we helped the LUM Jubilee which supported 35 families with Christmas gifts and gift cards for Christmas dinner. In January, we kicked off a project for a Food Finders food truck. This will take place on February 27 and will help feed approximately 140 families in the Klondike area. The most exciting thing about the food truck mission is that it spawned from a mission team member looking to make use of their stimulus check and realizing that others may be looking for a similar opportunity. To date, we've raised over \$3,000 which will fund the truck on February 27 and a second truck which we'll plan for another time this year.

When we rallied the team in the fall, we intended to make this group action-oriented, so we meet only quarterly. But like the food truck, we expect much of our work to be somewhat organic, responding to needs as we see them. We communicate primarily through email and give leeway to a project owner to make decisions and keep things moving, without the need to gather the full group. We think it's important for this to be a nimble team, constantly ready to spring into action when a need arises.

We had our second meeting in early February, where we discussed future opportunities. In addition to the many well-known missions we have supported for years, like LUM, Food Finders, Klondike Kids Club, the Backpack Program, and more, we identified a couple new opportunities to focus on that haven't been as prominent in our church in recent years. This spring, we hope to put a focus on UMCOR, communicating about the many opportunities to get involved on a number of different levels, as well as finding ways to show the impact that UMCOR has both locally and on a broader scale. Much of our work is very boots-on-the-ground, but we also want to investigate ways to get involved with Bread for the World, an organization more focused on making systemic changes.

There is so much to be excited about! We would love to be able to plug more FUMC members into some of these incredible missions. There are always opportunities to volunteer your time or donate to one of our on-going missions. Right now, we are still looking for folks to join us for the drive-through food distribution at Klondike Elementary School on February 27, starting at 9:30am. If someone is interested in UMCOR, we're still in the planning phase of that campaign, and would be happy to have some new faces be a part of that.

Worship Team Report

The past year (2020) presented many challenges for the Worship Team as a whole. Working together and supporting one another, we met those challenges head on to provide meaningful worship and connection to our church family. As 2021 begins, in the same vein as 2020, we continue to investigate and learn how to bring deep, creative, and inspirational moments of worship to you. We also look forward to and dream about the return to in- person worship!

Worship Team Celebrations:

- Acquiring new skills in technology to bring choir, handbells, and other musical offerings to worship via video
- An expanded number of Worship Team members willing to lead worship
- Outdoor Christmas Eve Worship!
- Substitute Pianist Rhonda Blacklock
- Our new hire to fill the pianist/organist opening: Haewon Yang
- New Handbell Table covers (purchased with Foundation money) to enable us to separate our handbell tables in order to ring safely

Worship Team Dreams:

- More Outdoor Worship Services
- Continuing to use our new technology skills in creative ways after we return to in-person worship
- Future Outdoor HymnSings even after we return to in-person worship

Worship Team Upcoming Opportunities that FUMC Members Can Support:

- Members of the congregation willing to assist in planning and executing worship
 - Assembling materials for worship
 - Distributing materials for worship to those who cannot pick them up or have no computer to access them digitally
 - Creative thinkers, artisans, and craftsmen, etc.

**THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA
GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING
MINUTES**

NOVEMBER 16, 2020 AT 7:00 pm, VIRTUAL

Opening (7:02 PM)

- Roll call

Worship moment (7:04 PM)

- Karen Hull

Pastors Reports/Remarks (7:07 PM)

- Duane Carlisle
- Grateful to all those in attendance, and those who have been welcoming this year.
- A challenging year, our story has paralleled Exodus (lots of change), moving towards a new beginning.
- Anna Clark - Missions
 - Met with many congregants to learn what missions are in place already and what opportunities are out there.
 - Setup a small mission team (people involved in LUM, Food Finders, etc)
 - The team meets quarterly to discuss opportunities.
- Jonathon Day - Communication
 - New Website!
 - Simplified (Less is more), contemporary design
 - Easier to navigate
 - Next priorities
 - Grant funding to continue this work
 - Revamp newsletters

Associate Pastors Reports/Remarks (7:29 PM)

- Lauren Hall
- Making the best of not meeting people face-to-face
- Looking toward the future, expecting to be virtual for a while
- Switching virtual Sunday School to virtual Children's Church
 - Praise music
 - Worship lesson
- Sunday afternoon Zoom experience (Lessons with Lauren)
 - Advent crafts
 - Etc.
- In-person gathering for children this Sunday
- The mission for this winter - get to know the children of the church
- Winterization happened this month, LUM Jubilee next month
- Confirmation Class will start after the first of the year.

SPRC (7:39 PM)

- Jana Day
- Welcomed Duane and Lauren this year!
- Thanks to both Pastors for all they've done this year!
- Thanks to Ellen for her leadership regarding music and worship!
- Thanks to Ronda for being the backbone and keeping us running!
- No changes to staff.

Finance (7:43 PM)

- Tim Delworth
 - Expenses ~\$615k, Income ~\$500k
 - PPP Loan is expected to be forgiven.
- Larry Huggins
 - Since March we've been running ~80% giving level relative to the previous year
 - 25% PPP went to VNS, 75% to Church salaries
 - A major gift from Nola Gentry charitable trust (\$56k)
 - Expect to close out the year without dipping into savings again.
- Bill Walker
 - The cost to run the church has been less because we've been physically away from the facilities.
 - Previous yearly expenses may not reflect reality regarding 2020/2021
 - We've been good financial stewards.
 - ~\$67k under the operating plan.
 - Need to find new ways to excite/encourage people about giving.
 - Make it a fabric of what FUMCWL does.
 - Proposed Operating Plan
 - \$644k for 2021, roughly 10% less than the 2020 plan
 - Giving is down, so the operating plan needs to be realistic to reflect that.

Governance Board (7:51 PM)

- Jim Beaty
- Sr. Pastor hit the ground running.
- Working on teams (Missions and Communications)
- All Saints Day reminds us of what we've lost, but also what we have to look forward to.
- The church is more nimble and able to serve people better than it has been in the past.
- New housing across from the church gives us the opportunity to serve the community hyper-locally.
- Quality programs are in development.

Nominations (7:59 PM)

- Duane Carlisle
- Challenges included people leaving GB due to various reasons and how do we fill those positions. How do we bring diversity to the board?
- Proposal
 - Don Caddy (2nd term)
 - Craig Dobbins
 - Mike Johnson
- Nominees overwhelmingly accepted

Closing (8:21 PM)

Charge Conference (8:22 PM)

- John Randall
- Paperwork turned and OK'd by conference
- Closed at 8:43 PM