

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

AGENDA

APRIL 19, 2021 AT 7:00 pm, VIRTUAL

1. Welcome
2. Attendance
3. Opening: Celebrate, Dream, Invite
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes
6. Progress Towards Goals, Approval of Reports
 - a. Finance
 - b. SPRC
 - c. Trustees
 - i. Gutters
 - d. Submitted Reports
 - e. Presentation: Nola Gentry Estate Committee
 - f. Presentation: Care and Nurture Team
7. GB Business
 - a. Results of Voting
 - b. Worship Update
 - c. Funding for First UP (Contemporary Service)
 - d. Outreach to Purdue students
8. Questions and Answers
9. Announcements
 - a. Upcoming Meetings
 - i. GB Meeting, Monday, May 17 at 7pm
 1. Agenda items due to Bill Walker by Monday, May 3
 2. Agenda announced by Monday, May 10
 - ii. GB Meeting, Monday, June 21 at 7pm
10. Adjournment

Finance Report

From January to March, expenses have been slightly below the operating plan. Giving is less than expenses at this point by about \$26,000. A summary of the first three months is below:

- Operating Plan: 160,400
- Giving/Income (not including Nola Gentry Estate): 131,997
- Expenses: 158,334
- Income less Expenses: -26,337
- Operating Plan less Expenses: 2,066

Staff/Parish Relations Report

SPRC 2nd Quarter Highlights:

- Review job descriptions/prioritize workload
- Begin the assessment/evaluation of ministry, discussions
- Review vacation schedule
- Ensure preparations for the Annual Conference for both lay/clergy delegates, including expenses
- Review: Encouragement, Nurture, Support assignments & lay out a plan for the year;
- Focus on: Congregation & Unity: What's happening & planned?

Dreaming:

- Hiring a PT Marketing/Communications 10 hours a week person to manage newsletters, social media, mailings, website
- Hiring a Contemporary Worship Coordinator 10 hours a week

Inviting FUMC Member Support:

- Become a FUMC Ministry Team Coordinator: (Adult Education, Youth, Communion, Ushers, Welcome Team, etc.)
- Volunteer for any ministry needs

Trustees Report

Monthly update:

- We have hired a contractor to repair the Gutters.
- The Foundation has approved up to \$10,000 to pay for repairing the gutters.
- Mowing crew and schedule is set up. We will still accept new volunteers.
- Cleaned out some more of the garage and are letting Wesley use the space to store Winterization supplies.
- Still looking for maintenance support if anyone is interested in helping out.

Care and Nurture Team Report

In 2004, Pastor Kate Walker officially started the Care and Nurture Team with three members (Betty Rons, Barbara Latin, and Nancella Dobbins). The team sent cards of encouragement, sympathy, and comfort each week to those persons who had been placed on the prayer list. The team members also committed to remember these people in their daily prayers.

The team has continued with other church members taking charge. In January 2021, Ginny Dienhart stepped forward and gathered a core of people to continue this powerful ministry. The team currently includes up to nine participants. The duties have evolved to include encouragement to many of our older members and others who appear on the prayer list. We do continue to meet every couple of months. The Care and Nurture Team sends cards for encouragement, birthday recognition, sympathy, joy at a birth, a baptism. We also keep these people in our prayers. We call or communicate by mail with each of them once a month or more. When the pandemic is over we will resume visiting in person. We are each assigned seven to twelve people to minister to each month. One of our team members, Carol Smith, continues to create cards for every occasion for us to use in our communication with these church members. FUMC members are welcome to join the Care and Nurture Team, please contact Ginny Dienhart if you are interested.

Communications Team Report

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

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

Items the group is celebrating!

- The website is live. (Same URL as previous website). <https://www.fumcwl.org/>
- The group has met with three companies that will work with us on the branding /communication plan. RFPs have been sent to these companies and responses due end of month (April).

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 communications efforts to the broader community and supporting new ministries.
- Marketing/Communications support person (part time/hourly) to support expansion of communication ministry.

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

Celebrations

The children and I continue to meet at 4:00 pm on Sunday afternoon for a short lesson and crafts. The average attendance ranges from 5-7. The crafts are simple, and can be completed in 30 minutes or less, and are always accompanied with a lesson about God's love.

The youth recently celebrated Christmas and Easter at Grace Church. The mini-lock-in involved an Easter Egg Hunt (with tasks to do inside) or a Christmas Gift Box Hunt, depending on which team they were on. When all tasks were completed, they had to search for the Grand Prize. In addition to some other mixer activities, we also ate pizza and had a gift exchange.

We prepared and distributed about 35 Easter Egg Goodie packages to our younger youth and children Easter Weekend.

Dreams

Outdoor VBS June 21-25. We are in the process of planning.

Hometown Mission Trip – After last summer's success and because youth are still not eligible for vaccines, we are planning to remain in West Lafayette again this year. This event is still in the planning stages and the date is not yet set.

Invitations

We will need volunteers for VBS, both help with decorations and preparing snacks and those who are willing and able to work with the children. We also need help identifying active families who have children and youth so that they can be included in future deliveries.

We are seeking mission projects for the youth Hometown Mission Trip. The youth can scrape garages that need to be painted, do yard work (you supply the tools), wash windows, shop for groceries, etc. If you have work or know of a neighbor who could use some outside help, please let us know.

Missions Team Report

No report.

Nola Gentry Estate Committee

Rev. Duane Carlisle, Senior Pastor, Bill Walker, Governance Board Chair, Tim Delworth and Karen Hull, Governance Board members met on March 24, 2021. The Nola Gentry Trust distributed \$217,000 to FUMC as an unrestricted donation. We honored Nola's wisdom and foresight to give the gift as unrestricted and to trust church leadership to properly use the funds and in doing so for expressing that FUMC has something unique to offer to the community.

The funds should be used to:

- Advance our vision which is currently being re-shaped
- To encourage generosity
- To benefit the community

We celebrate Nola's generosity and that we are on a path to a new vision. We have dreams of how that new vision may impact individuals and communities. We invite the missions team to consider requesting funds from this gift to advance our new vision in the community and engage the congregation in the vision and service. Most of this gift will await the formation of our new vision.

Stewardship and Generosity Team Report

Following discussions with GB Chair Bill Walker and Pastor Duane Carlisle, Cary Mitchell was appointed team leader in March of 2021 and began searching for members of the Stewardship and Generosity Team. The purpose of the team is to encourage giving for the next FUMC operating plan. After extensive consultations, discussions, and extending a number of invitations, a team was created that represents a diversity of experiences and viewpoints of FUMC at multiple levels. Some team members include spouses to provide continuity in the event of schedule conflicts with team meetings. The 2021 Stewardship and Generosity Team currently consists of the following members:

- Holly Drown
- Diana Hoke
- Dan Howell
- Larry and Lola Huggins
- Cary and Leticia Mitchell
- Dorcas Thomas
- Ashley and Stephen Wien

The team will meet with Bill Walker and Duane Carlisle via Zoom on Monday, April 12 at 7:30 PM to receive their welcome, charge, and orientation. They have been encouraged to ask questions, brainstorm, and make suggestions for new stewardship and generosity approaches to fund raising for the 2022 operating plan of FUMC.

Welcome and Connection Team Report

No report.

Worship Team Report

Presentation during the Governance Board Meeting.

THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA
GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
MARCH 15, 2021 AT 7:00 pm, VIRTUAL

Attendance

- Bill Walker, Reid Hochstedler, Lore Blinn Gibson, Craig Dobbins, Ann Caddy, Mike Johnson, Duane Carlisle, Larry Huggins, Don Caddy, Anna Clark, Lola Huggins, Cary Mitchell, John Randall, Ronda Kroeschen, Karen Hull, Jana Day, Ellen Wilson, Bill Fornes, Heidi Fornes, Jonathan Day, Lauren Hall, Kris Bross, Timothy Delworth, Mary Welch

Welcome (7:04 PM)

- Bill Walker discussed agenda for the meeting

Opening: Celebrate, Dream, Invite (7:06 PM)

- Pastor Duane read a scripture Jeremiah 31: 31-34
- 1 year mark of Covid changing the way we meet
- God is always inviting us into relationships
- Pastor Duane wants us to think about Celebrate, Dream, Invite in a circular process as we progress
 - Celebrate that we have gotten through a year
 - Celebrate that Pastor Duane got to preach in front of people yesterday
 - Celebrate group that came together for town hall to discuss what do activities going forward look like
 - Dream that we will soon be in a place where we can gather in some way
 - Invitation look for ways to share how you saw God at work outside the walls of the church
- Opening prayer offered by Pastor Duane

Adoption of the Agenda(7:18 PM)

- Motion to approve agenda by Don Caddy, Karen seconded
- Passed unanimously

Approval of Minutes (7:20 PM)

- Motion to approve agenda Reid Hochstedler, Kris Bross seconded
- Passed unanimously

Reports

Finance (7:21 PM)

- YTD Tithe Income 101,060
- YTD Budget 318,658
- YTD Expenses 99,608
- YTD Total Income less Expenses 1,452
- YTD Budget Less expenses 7,325
- Discussed Operating Plan we will be voting on
- Proposed Budget Total Expenses \$644,300

SPRC (7:25 PM)

- No report

Trustees (7:25 PM)

- Need to repair gutters expected cost approximately \$10,000
 - Need to reseal gutters
 - Leaking over exit door to playground
- Rich Frank has agreed to coordinate mowing again
- Discussed options for moving forward with gutter repair
 - Proposed requesting funding from foundation
 - Asked why we are sealing all of the gutters
 - What are the expected life of sealing gutters
- Motion to proceed with talking to foundation and Nola Gentry Estate and board to get funding for repairing gutter seals. Bill Walker Move, Karen seconded
- Motion passed

Communications (7:33 PM)

- Jonathan Day showed new website
 - Website is foundation for which to build communications platform
 - Everyone owes thank you to Greg McCoy for developing the website
- Website based on word press.
- Website is a journey not a destination. Open to suggestions and requests to develop the website.
- Drop email to Jonathon of Greg an email for changes
- Looking for someone that can help with Brand identification for the church
 - Identify our core messages to the congregations and outside church
 - Provide us with strategic input
 - Sort through ways we communicate, newsletters, e-mails, etc.

Worship (7:40 PM)

- Worked hard since fall to expand worship team
- Transitioned to use planning center to schedule worship team
 - Sends e-mails to help communicate
- Practice before worship every Sunday
- Grateful for people who are willing to volunteer
- After a long search we have hired accompanist Haewon Yang
- Choirs are excited about warmer temperatures
 - Rehearsing and recording outside
- Planning to start rehearsing with handbells again soon
- Steady following of people for Tuesday hymn sings
 - Important part is connecting with each other
- Pastor Duane expressed his appreciation for everyone who has worked on the worship service
- Appreciation for addition of First Up worship service
- Pastor Lauren said, Go Chuck Newton, thank you for help with children's message

Additional Reports (7:51 PM)

- Motion to approve reports by Karen Hull, Craig Dobbins seconded motion
- Motion passed

Governance Board (7:52 PM)

- REALM Data (new church database)
 - We imported all of our data from the previous database
 - One of the reasons it was chosen is because church members can maintain information on their own
 - Registration link was sent out enter information,
 - Should be invitation in your inbox next Thursday
 - Will send out another invite
 - Karen commented, can a link to REALM be added to the new website
 - If you have difficulty, a form has been created so that someone else can add the data to REALM to help support people being connected this way.
 - Look for a 2nd information to enter information into REALM
 - Will REALM eventually be a digital directory for the congregation
- Spring Activity Listening Session
 - 1st listening session on March 11th, 2nd session this Thursday 3/18
 - There was a good discussion during the meeting and look forward to continuing the discussion

- Committee on Operating Principles
 - Tim Delworth and Karen Hull forming team to work on use of Nola Gentry Estate gift
- Stewardship Campaign
 - Cary Mitchell
 - Emphasis on caring and generosity
 - Start earlier rather than be seasonal
 - Looking for additional team members
 - Pursue a very positive approach to stewardship
- Governance Board Operating Principles
 - Will be voting on shortly
 - Many people worked on developing the Operating Principles
 - Working to be in accordance with discipline
 - Focus on how we manage ourselves
 - Also working on a team's operating principles
- Officers and Representatives for 2021
 - Reid Hochstedler - Vice President
 - Mike Johnson - Secretary

Q & A (8:15 PM)

- No questions

Announcement (8:16)

- Representatives to annual conference
 - Had 5 members put their names in as willing to serve as delegates
 - All 5 names were voted on in a district meeting and a member was approved
- Next Governance Board Meeting April 19th @ 7:00 AM
- Motion to adjourn by Karen, seconded by Jana Day
- Motion passed

Church Conference

- Conference Superintendent Lore Blinn Gibson presided
- Called to order at 8:22 PM
- Pastor Duane lead us in Prayer
- Proposals for the following have been communicated to congregations
 - Operating Principles
 - Operating Plan
 - Approval of Officers
- Pastor Duane discussed double checking that this proposals do not conflict with anything that has been filed with the Secretary of State previously
 - Filing form early 1950 naming trustees as leaders of corporation
 - Name change in 1968.
- Motion to approve Operating Principles of the Governance Board by Bill Walker
 - No discussion
 - Link was placed in Zoom Chat to vote.
 - Vote was unanimously to approve electronically in google forms
- Motion to approve Operating Plan for 2021 by Bill Walker
 - No discussion
 - Link was placed in Zoom chat to vote.
 - Approved unanimously
- Motion to approval of Proposed Officers by Bill Walker
 - Reid Hochstedler - Vice Chair
 - Mike Johnson - Secretary
 - No discussion
 - Link was placed in Zoom chat to vote
 - Approved unanimously
- CS Lore Blinn Gibson commended the development of the Operating Principles and asked if she could use it as a template for other churches.
- Church conference Adjourned at 8:36
- John Randall offered prayer to end meeting (8:38 PM)