

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

AGENDA

OCTOBER 18, 2021 AT 7:00 pm, VIRTUAL

Governance Board

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
 - d. Submitted Reports
 - e. Presentation: Communications
7. GB Business
 - a. Update on 2021 Goals
 - i. Work completed in 2021
 - ii. Promote the work of FUMC Ministry Teams
 - iii. Plan to “phase-in” In-person activity
 - iv. Plan for Worship
 - b. Charge Conference Report
8. Questions and Answers
9. Announcements
 - a. Upcoming Meetings
 - i. GB Meeting, Monday, November 15 at 7pm (tentative)
 - ii. GB Meeting, Monday, December 20 at 7pm (tentative)
10. Adjournment

Church Conference and Charge Conference

1. Opening of Church Conference and Charge Conference
2. Vote to approve FUMC Operating Principles of the Ministry Teams
3. Vote to approve FUMC Operating Plan for 2022
4. Vote to approve new members of the FUMC Governance Board
5. Vote to approve Vice-Chairperson and Secretary of the FUMC Governance Board for 2022
6. Adjournment

Finance Report

A draft of the operating plan for 2022 has been submitted for approval. No additional report.

Treasurer's Report

Congregation giving through September continues to be very similar to last year. The Morgan-Stanley investments had a very small .2% decline for the 3rd quarter due to the very weak September market.

Staff/Parish Relations Report

- Part-time (10 hours per week) Communication Assistant position for 12 weeks is posted, and then we will reassess. Posted at Purdue, Ivy Tech, and on FB. Sent the job opening announcement to 15 religious groups on campus and several Greek organizations. Unfortunately, we haven't had any applicants. We will keep searching.
- Kory Pritchett and Heawon Yang are now serving as Worship Coordinators for approximately 10 hours per week.
- Music Ministry Retreat Highlights:
 - Openness to new ways of music.
 - An interest in singing new types of music and groups.
 - Ready to find a way to get back to doing something, while recognizing that things will look different.
- A smaller music ministry working group met to vision the next steps. The group is happy with how things are progressing with 2 part-time worship coordinators. We're keeping an eye on the amount of time they are working and the feasibility of keeping it as is. We will meet again in November to reassess. In the next few weeks, we hope to have a better idea of Haewan's status, which will help us plan for the future. The highlight from the meeting was the choir members had not noticed a difference in the types of practices and preparation. Things are going well.
- What is happening in music ministries?
 - Band
 - The full chancel choir has started practicing.
 - 2 Different Bells Groups (Kathy Lind is running them)
 - PMO - has been contacted, and groups we haven't seen for a while are interested in coming.
 - New Musicians - Soprano Sax, Flute, Family Music, Violin
- Pastor Appreciation Sunday was on October 10th. We celebrated Duane and Lauren with baskets from "Richelle in a Handbasket" and note cards from the congregation.
- Inviting FUMC Member Support:
 - Spread the word on the Communications Assistant position
 - Become a FUMC Ministry Teams: Musicians, Adult Education, Youth, Communion, Ushers, Welcome Team, etc)
 - Volunteer for any ministry needs

Trustees Report

Updates

- All new bulbs in the columbarium. All the bollards and 1 of the floods had bad bulbs.
- Looking for LED upgrade for exterior office entry lights.
- Sidewalk repairs scheduled with a contractor. We are replacing the step outside the kitchen, the sidewalk along the back as needed, and adding a curb cut to the east end of the back sidewalk.
- Booth AC on order has been installed.
- Some parts are on order to upgrade the wireless. Others will be ordered as they are available. David and Jonathan will begin to install the upgrades.
- Other than the office, the entire building is set to unoccupied for the most part. If you are having an event, please let Don Caddy know if you need the AC on.
- Looking into Parsons Tree replacement. Bellinger's suggested we wait until their fall tree sale and then pick one out. Need help from someone who knows trees. If you want to volunteer let Don know at don.caddy@gmail.com.
- Ongoing issue with the AC unit for the Sanctuary. Finally found the fault and ordered parts to repair it. Should be repaired just in time to turn the heat on :).
- Brian Titlow looking for a donation to replace the wallpacks that are failing.

New Alarm / Access Procedures (delayed to November)

- We will be publishing new procedures for everyone to sign off on who has a key or code. This is primarily to make sure that everyone is on the same page with the expectation of having a card/code
- We are going to reset all the alarm codes at FUMC as of 11/1/2021. There are many codes floating around for people who no longer attend, some that have been mis-assigned, and some just configured wrong.
- If you need an alarm code, please contact Don Caddy (don.caddy@gmail.com, 765-491-7855) to get one.
- Codes are 4 digit numeric, and you can "keep" your old code but you have to contact me to verify your contact information and code.
- If you already have one and you do not "renew" it then it will no longer work as of 11/1/2021.

Care and Nurture Report

No report.

Communications Team Report

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

- Strategic brand and marketing communications planning for the church in conjunction with Smallbox (our marketing communication consultancy).
- Ongoing content management for website

Items the group is celebrating!

- The Brand/Marketing Communications Strategy project has begun. Listening/Stakeholder engagement meetings have begun.
- A marketing assistant has been approved on a part-time 10hrs/week basis. The job has been posted. Still looking.

Items the group is dreaming about:

- Having a website and communication program (newsletters, emails, social media) that is contemporary and meet the needs of the congregation (today and in the future).
- Extending our communications 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. We are reaching out in the coming weeks.

Family Ministry Report

Sunday School Continues for children and youth. We have one children's class and one youth class. Although all children do not always come at the same time, we now have 9 children involved and 3 youth. Youth activities are limited, but continuing. In September, we participated in the Hunger Hike, in October we went to Exploration Acres, in November we are planning to participate in Winterization, and in December we plan to assist with LUM Jubilee. A Confirmation Class is beginning in October.

I am continuing to attend Middle and High School Events that our students participate in. This fall I was able to watch Charlie Walker run Cross Country and Anna Rowe play soccer. I'm looking forward to watching Jane Fornes, Kari Keckler and Rowynn Hall-Davis swim. As I discover other youth who are in plays, concerts or sports, I will try to attend their events also.

Celebrations: 3 new children participating in Sunday School, 6 returning / 2 new Youth and 1 returning / 4 trained acolytes

Dream: I pray that more families will begin coming to church so that we can make connections and invite them to participate in youth and children's activities.

Invitation: I invite you to invite people to worship (both new and old). Be honest about what we are doing – we currently have a small program, but the leaders are faithful and we look forward to growing. The benefits of a smaller program allows kids to be known by their names and they will get more personal attention, etc.

Missions Team Report

In September, First Church had a Hunger Hike team, which raised \$2800 for LUM, Food Finders, and St. Thomas Aquinas Haiti Mission. We had 3 fundraisers, 23 donors, and 11 participants at the hike on 9/19 at Riehle Plaza. We are helping with the We're Out celebration on October 16, and then will begin planning for our November and December missions. We're always looking for people who would like to participate in mission opportunities - both planning and volunteering for each event. Please reach out to Anna Clark (aclark54@gmail.com) if you would like to be involved!

Nola Gentry Estate Committee

No report.

Stewardship and Generosity Team Report

Videos are in use for the Stewardship Campaign.

Welcome and Connection Team Report

No report.

Worship Team Report

The Charge Conference report has been completed and will be shared during the meeting.

THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA
GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 AT 7:00 pm, VIRTUAL

Attendance

- Reid Hochstedler, Mike Johnson, Bill Walker, Craig Dobbins Ronda Kroeschen, Jana Day Don Caddy, Duane Carlisle, Ann Caddy, Anna Clark, Jim & Janet Beaty, Perry Brown, Lauren Hall, Larry and Lola Huggins, Lynn Griffin

Welcome (7:05 PM)

- Bill Walker welcomed everyone to the meeting

Opening: Celebrate, Dream, Invite (7:05 PM)

- Pastor Duane invited us to a moment of silence.
- A devotion was offered by Pastor Duane

Adoption of Agenda (7:17 PM)

- Motion to accept - Moved by Reid Hochstedler, Don Caddy seconded
- Agenda accepted

Approval of Minutes (7:18 PM)

- Motion to accept minutes - moved by Jana Day, Seconded by Larry Huggins
- Minutes accepted

Reports

Finance (7:19) Craig Dobbins, Tim Delworth, Larry Huggins

- Graph shared from Finance Report
- August giving was closest to expenses we have been this year
- Three strong months typically each year, January, November, and December
- Would like to continue improvement shown in August in September and October
- Revenue numbers do not represent the payroll protection program

- Treasurer (7:24 PM) Larry Huggins
 - Finances helped greatly by PPP program
 - Investments have done well with the market.
 - Running close to 18% increase in market value on investments.

SPRC (7:26 PM) Jana Day

- October doing pastor appreciation.
- See report for additional information
- Raises for staff were included in the report. Raises were well deserved.

Trustees (7:27 PM) Don Caddy

- Security update delayed to November 1st
- Sidewalk repairs curb cut
- Booth AC on order, installing next week.
- New freezer in kitchen

- Air conditioner issue in CLC. Repair person coming to look at tomorrow.

Worship Report (7:30 PM) Pastor Duane

- Gratitude for Ellen Wilson
- Celebrate that Kory Pritchett and Haewon Yang have gotten off to a great start
- Worship is slowly having a visible increase in attendance recently.
- 60 to 80 in person attendance
- Online worship remains strong
- Suggesting that sermon is posted online
- Have had a new visitor every week for the past 2 months.
- Excited about communication and getting the word out.

Accept reports as posted and presented. Moved by Reid Hochstedler, seconded by Jana Day

GB Business

Presentation of Operating Principles of Ministry Teams (7:36 PM) Bill Walker

- Leader
- Goal
- Minimum number of members
- Report progress back to Governance Board
- Will vote at Church Conference on October to accept

Presentation of Operating Plan (7:39 PM) Craig Dobbins

- Posted on the church website
- Presented in excessive detail. Have made as clear as possible
- Includes subcategories under main categories
- Bottom line number is negative
- Church is going through changes of various kinds. Sometimes this causes things to come out of balance
- We are facing some headwinds, we have some work to do
- Expenses are known more than income.
 - Have new ministry groups requesting funding
- Not significantly different than budget that was approved this year
- 2018 (\$700,000), Sharp downward trend in income.
- Do not believe trend we have seen in the last few years will continue
- PPP will not be available next year. Will lose \$60,000 to \$70,000 we have seen in the last few years.
- Have foundation and Nola Gentry endowment to help get through challenges
- What is posted is a draft. Contact Bill Walker or Craig Dobbins with suggested changes.

Presentation of Proposed Nominees (7:50 PM) Pastor Duane

Lay Leader for 2022

- Anna Clark

Lay member to annual conference

- Bill Walker

2022 Governance Board Member

- Cathy Abrahamson
- Perry Brown
- John Norberg

Need to work on identifying vice chairman and secretary for 2022 (Bill Walker 7:58 PM)

Charge Conference Paperwork (8:00 PM)

- Need to finish to sent to district leaders
- This is being currently worked on.

Questions and Answers (8:02 PM) Bill Walker

- Do we talk about who is taking over SPRC so Jana knows who to start handing information over to. (Jana Day)
- SPRC leader was identified in January last year
- Pastor Duane would encourage current governance board members to consider what position they can fit into and have information communications
- Confirmation Class and New Member classes starting
- Sunday School classes have been meeting for 2 Sundays
- Thanks to Pastor Lauren to your work on Sunday School
- Attendance at Sunday School is close to what we were at a couple of year ago before the changes (Jana Day)

Announcements (8:05) Bill Walker

- Next Governance Board meeting and church conference Monday October 18 at 7:pm
 - Most likely Zoom meeting again
- Music Retreat
 - Great to have all of the folks back together and talk about moving into a new season
 - Talked about music and our overall life in worship
 - Broadly a positive feeling from the results of this retreat
 - Had almost 30 people involved in retreat in some way
- New ways to give virtually. Can give through text message.
 - First UMC website has instructions
 - Paypal
 - Realm giving through realm or text message
- Upcoming Governance Board Meetings
 - Monday November 15th, 7:00 PM
 - Monday December 20th, 7:00 PM

Closing Prayer by Pastor Lauren (8:15 PM)

Jana moves to close the meeting, Craig Dobbins seconded (8:16 PM)