

**First United Methodist Church  
Governance Board Meeting  
March 20, 2023**

Present: Pastor Duane Carlie, Reid Hochstetler, Larry and Lola Huggins, Anna Clark, Rebecca Kaverman, Kathy Abrahamson, Craig Dobbins

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm

- Pastor Duane opened meeting with prayer.

Agenda

- Approval of the agenda was moved and seconded. The motion passed. The meeting agenda is attached.

Minutes of the February meeting

- There were no minutes of the February meeting presented.

Reports

- Pastor's Report – Pastor Duane

Pastor Duane indicated he had several “to be aware of” items to remind the Governance Board of:

- ✓ Our space consultants, KJG, have provided an initial set of drawings for the narthex and are proceeding to develop suggestions for the Activity Center and Christian Life Center.
- ✓ First Church and Purdue University are combining efforts to offer the community a Freedom School this summer. The web site describing the Freedom School indicates the “Freedom School is a free six-week literacy-based summer program for students in grades K-3. The mornings are dedicated to the integrated reading curriculum and afternoons consist of various activities including STEM engagement, field trips, and social action activities. The Freedom School encourages a love of reading and learning through a culturally diverse curriculum. The Integrated Reading Curriculum affirms our scholars with engaging literature and exposure to the broader community. We hire college-aged students to teach and mentor our scholars in classrooms with a 1:10 teacher to student ratio.” The Freedom School will meet from June 12<sup>th</sup> to July 21<sup>st</sup>. There are 30 students in the first class and enrollment has been closed. There is no cost to the student. Each student is provided a free breakfast, lunch, and snack during the day.”

Even though the project web site makes it sound like the Freedom School is exclusively a Purdue effort, class sessions will be held in our building, there are members our congregation serving teachers and in other positions, and the conference has provided a supporting grant of \$50,000. You can find more information about the Freedom School at

<https://www.education.purdue.edu/cl2ear/research-initiatives/purdue-cdf-freedom-school-program/#volunteering>.

- ✓ Vacation Bible School planning is well underway. Vacation Bible School will be held earlier this year, June 5 – 9, 2023.
- ✓ Engagements through our media communications effort continue to climb. This indicates our investments to modernize our web presence and to make things more interactive are paying off.
- Trustees Report – submitted by Don Caddy
  - We have four new furnaces thanks to the Foundation.
  - Don signed a contract with a new lawn care company, Green Light Lawn Care. They were highly recommended. Don is also looking into some additional landscaping maintenance for this Spring.
  - There is a need to get our fire pump controller fixed. There was some discussion of this issue. Note: No one at the meeting knew the specifics of this issue, but in the current state it is expected the sprinklers in the building will not work properly. There was a consensus that repairs needed to be completed as soon as possible.
- Financial Report – Larry Huggins

Compared to the last two years, income from January and February was down by \$30,000. In addition, expenses seem to be higher than in the last two years. This required an infusion of \$85,000 from our reserves. For the last two years, an annual transfer from reserves of \$30,000 was required.

### Strategic Planning

There was a discussion about the need to revisit our strategic plan. The consensus of the group was that we were not yet at a stage in the implementation of our current strategic plan that we needed to modify our current strategic plan.

### Church Sign

There was a general discussion of the new church sign. There were numerous positive comments shared. Note: Unfortunately, Suzie Kline was not present at the meeting to hear all the positive comments brought about by her work to make the sign a reality. There was one improvement suggested - explore a way to shorten the one-minute refresh time required by city ordinances.

Submitted by Craig Dobbins, Secretary

# First United Methodist Church of West Lafayette

## March 2023 Governance Board Meeting

### Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Attendance
3. Opening Prayer
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes
6. Reports (to include positive developments and areas of concern)
  1. Senior Pastor
  2. Review and adopt Treasurer's Report
  3. Trustee Report
7. Further discussion to outline a Strategic Plan for First Church?  
(observables/quantifiable?)
8. Q & A
9. Closing