

**First United Methodist Church of West Lafayette**  
**February 17, 2025, Governance Board Meeting**

**1. Welcome**

Perry Brown opened. Things just keep getting worse. We need to keep doing what we are doing.

**2. Attendance**

Governance Board members present: Perry Brown, Don Caddy, Duane Carlisle, Craig Dobbins, Larry Huggins, Diana Hoke, Anna Clark, Reid Hochstedler, Carol Smith, Kathy Vill, Rebecca Kaverman, John Norberg, Kathy Vill  
Others present: Ronda Kroeschen, Ginny Dienhart

**3. Opening Prayer**

Ginny Dienhart

**4. Adoption of Agenda**

Reid Hochstedler made the motion to accept the agenda, Larry Huggins 2nd it. Approved.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

Larry Huggins made the motion to accept the minutes, Craig Dobbins 2nd it. Approved.

**6. Reports**

**1. Senior Pastor**

Pastor Duane Carlisle commented on several new people walking in the doors on Sunday. Staff is building relationships with them. The new Family Ministry Team is working out well. Talitha Huber is leading a confirmation class this year. The Young Adult class, Pub Theology, is getting back into swing. We had 15 people this last Thursday night. Thanks to Diana for presenting another Adult Sunday Class, Caffeinated conversations.

- a. Communication team. We meet with them 2 times/month. They have placed a new tab on the website, "Get Involved." They are revamping the Small Groups pages. Global Missions is outdated. Need to work on changing that. They are working on cost values for stewardship. So that you know when you tithe, that amount can pay for this (examples of electric bill, missions, lawn care, etc.). The website is lower on lookers and engagement is down. But the traffic rises. They also added a Freedom School tab. They will start pushing toward stewardship after Easter. We have decided with them that we need to only announce the deaths. Not births and baptisms. Because we need consent, and we want to keep the emails low.
- b. Realm. Carol Smith brought up about how she is computer tech challenged but she cannot get to see anyone's info on Realm. It was explained how unless you are in the administrator of Realm, you cannot see anyone's info unless they have checked the box of giving their consent to have it open. Don said he would add the Care & Nurture group members to the admin list so that they can see everyone's info. Ronda will also try to get a directory printed up for Carol.

**2. Review and adopt Treasurer's Report**

Modestly a good start to the year. On the reconstruction, the church will pay the first \$300,00.00 and then the Foundation will pay. \$176,000.00 of pre-ordered material have been

spent already because of the possible tariffs. January was a good month for investments at Morgan Stanley. We earned \$70,000.00 in one month.

### **3. Trustee Report**

Lots of things are happening in the sanctuary. The painting has started. The TVs are up but they are not in the correct placement. This will change later. Don put up a light fixture, and it looks good. And we have ordered the speaker system. We will put a blurb in tis week's announcements saying, "Construction has started. Please excuse out mess...."

### **4. Updates on "We All Belong" and Adult Sunday Class**

- a. We All Belong was officially organized in April of 2024. And we have grown a lot in numbers and support. With viewing us on the website, Facebook, and the meetings, we are about 200 strong. But we would like more support from the men. We have also 6 commitments from organizations. We are hosting a group supper next week. We are looking into having a film night with either "Separated" or "Join or Die." "Separated" is based on NBC Political and National Correspondent Jacob Soboroff's book, Morris merges explosive interviews with whistleblowing officials and artful narrative vignettes tracing one migrant family's plight. Together, they reveal that the cruelty at the heart of this policy was its very purpose. "Joi or Die" is a 2023 American documentary film regarding community connections and club participation, based on the work of political scientist Robert Putnam.
- b. The new adult Sunday class is "Caffeinated Conversations." Sharing of great stories. We are getting a great response to this class. Great support.

### **7. New Business**

- a. Just an update on Denny and Klondike Kids Club. She has turned over her papers and direction to the two supervisors of KKC. Ronda has also been working on it from the church side. Duane has had conversations with a mental health advisor on when and what to tell the children of KKC about Denny. And how we support and honor her.
- b. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Brunch -The Dalworth's would like to have more free time and not oversee the Brunch every Sunday. We will need to organize a team to take this on. We need to continue this Brunch because it offers a connect value.

### **8. Q & A**

None

### **9. Closing**

Perry talked about all kinds of ugly happening today. The work we do here counts! We need to continue to do what we are doing. We need to be the "City on the Hill" (is a phrase derived from the teaching of salt and light in Jesus's Sermon on the Mount. Originally it applied to the city of Boston by early 17th century Puritans, it came to adopt broader use in political rhetoric in United States politics, that of a declaration of American exceptionalism [the belief that the US is either distinctive, unique, or exemplary compared to other nations], and referring to America acting as a "beacon of hope" for the world.)