

## Governance Board Meeting Summary – June 15, 2026

### Attendance

#### Governance Board members present:

Perry Brown	Don Caddy	Duane Carlisle	Craig Dobbins	Larry Huggins
Diana Hoke	Anna Clark	Carol Smith	Kathy Vill	John Norberg
<del>Brianna Ginn</del>	Krystie Bishop	<del>Amanda Rowe</del>	Kory Pritchett	

Others present: Ronda Kroeschen, John Lewandowski, Mindy Kuney, Jane Frankenberger, Diane Stott, Darryl Schultz, Dorothea Goold

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### 1. Opening & Notable Announcements

- **Opening Reflection/Prayer:** Meeting began with a reflection on the importance of community and time, followed by a prayer from Pastor Duane.
- **Congregational Loss:** The passing of **Jack Gaunt** was acknowledged. Memorial service scheduled for **August 8, 2026**.
- **Agenda Adoption:** Carol made the motion to accept the agenda, Larry 2<sup>nd</sup> it. Approved.
- **Reminder:** All present reminded of the importance of their roles and community.
- **Noted:** Flexibility in the order of agenda items.

### 2. Main Topics Discussed

#### A. Grief and Community News

- The Board honored the passing of Jack Gaunt, recognizing his contributions and the upcoming memorial. Emphasis was placed on community, shared loss, and the importance of cherishing time together.

#### B. Approval Minutes

- **Kristie made the motion** to accept the agenda, Anna 2<sup>nd</sup> it. Approved.

### C. Senior Pastor Report

- **Worship Attendance:** Noted a high energy with over 90 attending recent services; highlighted "summer vibes" adjustments (e.g., Hawaiian shirts, outdoor socializing).
- **New Members:** 17 new members joined on Trinity Sunday.
- **Leadership Presence at Indiana Annual Conference:** Attendance by senior and associate pastors, as well as Anna and Diana as lay leaders. Highlights included discussions and statements regarding inclusion (immigration, family, etc.).
  - Anna preparing a communication for the congregation about the conference outcomes.
- **Freedom School:** Launched for the 4th year; 60+ young people registered. Dr. Hogue reported a smooth opening. Newly renovated spaces appreciated.
- **Klondike Kids Club Ministry:** First year operating without Pastor Denny. Maria Ansari and Carolyn Johnson led the program successfully.
  - **Leadership Transition:** Jorge Perez De Jesus to take primary leadership role for Klondike Kids next year, integrating Freedom School elements.
  - **Grant:** About \$6,000 secured from Indiana Afterschool Network to support Klondike Kids Club in the coming year.
- **Building Support:** Recent issues with the air handler fixed mid-service—applauded volunteer efforts.

### D. Board Composition: SPRC (Staff-Parish Relations Committee)

**This portion of the meeting was not open to the public.**

### E. Staff Hiring: Administrative Assistant

**This portion of the meeting was not open to the public.**

### F. Facility Updates

- **Fire Protection Water Tank:**
  - Supervisory alert issued—sensor malfunction.
  - The tank, originally required for fire protection due to limited original water supply, may no longer be necessary due to upgraded city water main.
  - Resolution:
    - Don to seek fire department approval to decommission the tank to avoid future maintenance and eventual expensive repairs.
    - Noted associated costs of removal vs. deactivation.
- **Solar Panel Proposal:**
  - Detailed proposal for rooftop solar presented by Don.
    - Cost: \$232,000; after tax incentives, net cost \$170,000.
    - Coverage: 48% of current energy usage. 12-year payback, 30-year lifespan, projected 6% return.
    - System: Roof-mount, non-penetrating; annual system checks recommended after ~3–5 years (\$4,000/year).
    - Inverters: 15-year warranty, approx. \$22,000 for future replacement.
    - Energy cost inflation estimated at 4.6% per year.
- **Solar Project Discussion:**
  - **Mission/Discipleship Link:** Vigorous debate connecting creation care, justice, and Christian discipleship. Both the missional and financial merits were discussed.
  - **Financial Considerations:**
    - Heavy ongoing dependence on investment (legacy) income to supplement operating budget.
    - Investment in solar would slightly lower available investment returns compared to continued market investments; however, social/environmental benefits and spiritual witness viewed as significant.
    - Noted that Foundation will be asked to help fund solar project—originally at 50%, motion advanced to ask for full funding.
  - **Education/Outreach Opportunities:**

- Suggestion for a "solar task force" to leverage project for congregational and community education, outreach, and inspiration.

#### G. Financial Report (Financial reports are available upon request in the church office.)

- **Treasurer's Report:** John made the motion to accept the agenda, Diana 2nd it. Approved.

#### H. Solar Panel Proposal & Outcome

- Full, extended, and at times heated discussion covered:
  - Mission, financial mechanics, programmatic priorities, and communication.
  - Discipleship was positioned as both environment and education-facing.
  - Anna and Jane voiced educational benefits, including community witness.
- **Motions Passed:**
  - **Don made the motion to...**
    - Ask the Foundation to fund the full solar project (amending earlier 50% request).
    - Church will commit at least \$10,000/year (from utility savings) in future budgets for programmatic use (education/ministry), as a show of good faith and shared commitment.

**Anna 2<sup>nd</sup> it. Approved.**
  - Formation of Solar Education/Communication Committee: To maximize ministry/education benefits.
- **Next Steps:** Foundation board meets July 21 to consider funding request. Final vote to return to governance board after Foundation decision.

#### I. Communication with Congregation

- Concerns raised regarding:
  - Lack of awareness by some congregation members around major issues (solar, staff transitions, decisions).
  - Timing of communications—deliberative vs. finalization, trade-offs regarding transparency before decisions.
  - Channels for feedback and input not always clear.
- Debated solutions:
  - Timeliness of posting board minutes (goal: within 1–2 weeks, not monthly backlog).
  - Posting minutes on website and in regular keynotes/newsletters.
  - Announcing major issues proactively in weekly newsletters, bulletins, stall notices, and at in-person meetings.
  - Designating governance board “table” at brunch/Narthex for direct liaison with congregants.
  - Recognizing that no single communication strategy suffices for all needs, but multiple channels and more face-to-face exchanges are needed.
  - Concerns regarding information security with public posting of minutes (especially sensitive financial and SPRC matters).
  - **Action:** Agreed that financial details would not be posted, but available to members who inquire.

#### J. Building Use Policy

- After months of discussion and review, John made the motion to accept the current draft of the building use policy, Duane 2nd it. Approved.
- Reviewed as a “living document” eligible for future revision as needed.

#### K. Worship Coordinator Position

- Hired **Isabelle Burton**, rising senior and stage manager at Harrison High School, as worship technology coordinator.
- Training is ongoing; hope to retain through potential matriculation at Purdue.

### 3. Action Items

5. **SPRC Role Transition:** Pastor to contact Brianna Ginn and offer “graceful exit”; John Lewandowski to be submitted for formal charge conference approval as interim SPRC Chair.
6. **Administrative Assistant Hire:** Announce Mindy Kuney’s hiring publicly; coordinate onboarding, overlapping with Ronda’s final days; arrange for announcement photo and introduction.
7. **Fire System:** Don to follow up with fire department re: possible decommissioning of obsolete water tank.
8. **Solar Project:**
  - Don and Board to formally request full funding from Foundation before their July 21 meeting.
  - Upon Foundation’s decision, Board to take a final, formal vote on proceeding.
  - Create an education/communications task force for solar project outreach and internal programming.
  - Designate (in future budgets) \$10,000/year from energy savings toward ministry/programming.
9. **Communications Improvements:**
  - Board and staff to post meeting minutes on website (excluding sensitive sections); set tighter timeline for distribution and newsletter inclusion.
  - Establish a regular (rotating) Board member “table” for congregant input and questions at weekly brunch/fellowship.
  - Encourage Board members to act as communication links to the wider congregational body.
10. **Personnel Policies:** Transition documentation and cross-training responsibilities (Charis Vander Plaats and others) to ensure continuity.
11. **Building Use Policy:** Communicate approved policy to relevant stakeholders.

### 4. Follow-Up Points & Future Meetings

- **SPRC Appointment:** Prepare for Charge Conference to formalize John Lewandowski’s role.
- **Solar Project:** Await Foundation decision (meeting July 21); Board to reconvene for final vote if funding is secured.
- **Personnel Transition:** Announce new administrative assistant; coordinate final transition logistics around late June retirement.
- **Communication:** Assess effectiveness of enhanced communication procedures in coming months; review congregation feedback on improved channels.
- **Educational Programming Proposal:** Solar education group to bring first report/plan to next Board meeting.
- **Worship Coordinator:** Continue to oversee on-boarding and support; note progress at next meeting.
- **Building Use Policy:** Monitor policy enactment and gather feedback for future amendments.

### Additional Notes

- **Treasury:** Continued vigilance required on increasing dependence on legacy fund draws for operating budget.
- **Board Education:** Need identified for onboarding/training resources for future Board members; solution to be explored in future.
- **Diversity:** Pledge to continue monitoring and addressing leadership diversity and balance.
- **Congregational Engagement:** Emphasis on maintaining open channels with congregation, particularly as church grows and new members join.

**Adjourned:** Meeting closed in prayer, expressing gratitude for spirited, challenging, and constructive discussion with a reaffirmed commitment to mission and community. Prayer was given by Kory.