



GUM CHURCH

Our vision is to actively live the example of Jesus

Governance Board Meeting Agenda

January 23, 2023 | 7 pm

Library

In attendance: Karen Ambs, Doug Barry, Marie McDonald, Lindsey Meredith, Karen Owen, Shaun Skibinski (joined by phone), John Stamm, Karen Strickland, Jon Tuscan, *Sherri Swanson, *Michelle Wood

(*non-voting member)

1. Devotions

Karen led the group in devotions and shared a post about anxiety and giving it to God. She then led the group in prayer.

Future devotion leaders: Doug (March), Marie (May), and Karen S. (July).

2. Introductions & Welcome of New Members

Karen welcomed the new members - Lindsey Meredith, Karen Owen, John Stamm, and Jon Tuscan

Governance Board members all went around and introduced themselves, how long on board, how long attending GUM and a little about family and church activities.

3. Pastor's Update

- After much consulting, we canceled the Christmas Eve Service due to weather. First time canceled for Pastor Sherri in 32 years. Christmas Eve re-do was nice to have and made the season feel complete. Todd was wonderful working with them.
- One service now: Good attendance for Christmas Eve re-do (195), but has been down the past two weeks (135 on 1/22/23). Hopeful to get back to two services - maybe in the Fall. Would like to continue to see growth. Pastor Sherri encouraged the board to please plan to attend regularly and reach out to get to know people.

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- Year end reports being worked on. Worship average was 112 in 2022 for in-person, plus 52 views online weekly (28 live – the rest watch later in the week). In the building, we have 45% of the people we had before pandemic. Altogether, we have 65% of the people before the pandemic (though we are allowed to multiply by 1.8 which would be about 80%).
- Pledges for 2023 are only 60% of the amount of money we actually spent in 2019. Challenging time. We have approved a budget with a deficit of \$115,181. Hopeful that number will not be that high, but still looking at a deficit. Continue to be in prayer about this issue. Pastor Sherri would like to expand the finance team, so asked the board if they know of anyone who would be a good fit, please let Sherri know.
- Building fund needs - structural issues fix wall and windows. The money will come out of the Capital Improvement account which is not on this budget.
- S-PRC had a luncheon for staff with 100% attendance.
- New Member winter class will be delayed until spring due to lack of sign ups.
- Lenten study - 24 Hours That Changed the World.
- Ash Wednesday - February 22, 12:00 & 6:00
- April 20, 21, and 22 for church directory
- Funeral and busy with pastoral visits (16 in past 3 weeks)
- Coaching now done, but continued education opportunities.
- Wayfinder Training - designed to be about working through conflict and leading when there is division. If interested, let Pastor Sherri know. Feb 3 & 4, 9am-5pm each day.
- Judicial council ruled a delayed general conference from 2020. Delegations can stay the same. 10 clergy, 10 laity. Thus, Sherri will be attending next jurisdictional conference in summer 2024
- Michigan conference announced we have dropped from 9 districts to 7. Our district is the only one that changed names from Midwest to Western Waters. It now extends from Holland to Old Mission Peninsula in Traverse City. New District Superintendent - Jodie Flessner.
- Margie Crawford, our current district superintendent, would like to have a charge conference to adjust the compensation form to reflect the health insurance increase.

4. Assign Liaisons to Ministry Groups

Liaisons were assigned for open ministry groups:

- Children's Music Ministry: Karen A.
- Church & Society: Lindsey

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- Community Cupboard: Karen A.
- Cribbage: John S.
- Family Camp: Lindsey
- Feeding America Food Trick: Karen A.
- Game Night: Karen A.
- Hand 2 Hand: Karen A.
- Intentional Faith Development: Marie
- Java Center: Karen S.
- Kitchen Committee: Jon T.
- Landscaping Team: Shaun
- Memorial Garden: Karen O.
- Men's Basketball: Michelle
- Missions Team: Karen A.
- Prayer Chain: Marie
- Prayer Shawl: Karen S.
- Pub Theology: Karen A.
- Senior Bowling: Shaun
- S-PRC: Doug
- Trustees: Lindsey
- United Women in Faith: Marie

The intention of ministry liaisons is to check in periodically and report back to the Governance Board.

5. Schedule 2023 meetings

March 20, 2023 7pm
 May 15, 2023 7pm
 July 17, 2023 7pm
 Sept. 18, 2023 7pm
 Nov. 27, 2023 7pm

6. Action item from Finance - need to approve/not approve Hospitality budget

Hospitality was left out of budget. Request is the same from 2022: \$400 Java, \$400 for Guest Services.

MOTION: Marie motioned to add the money back into the budget that was left out for hospitality.

SECONDED: Shaun seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

7. Move from Word to Google Docs/Drive Platform

Karen A. recommended using Google docs for the agenda and minutes, as it is easier to use and edit for those involved. Everyone was in favor of moving from Word to Google Docs.

8. Festival Items in Storage Unit - update

Dan D. reached out to Dale and Anne. Dale suggested to just pitch the booth. Sherri talked with the Missions Committee and they thought perhaps it could be sold online. Ultimately, we will be getting rid of it. Lindsey will talk to Andy to research if the booth would be worth selling.

9. Formation of Rainbow Door Committee

Task force has been formed, headed by Karen A.

10. Land Acknowledgment Statement

Liz. S and Sarah T. are putting together an acknowledgement that they will bring back to the board for review.

11. Anti-Racism Work

Conference encouraging us to be attentive. Website has been set up with a link (<https://michiganumc.org/cultural-vibrancy/cultural-vibrancy-toolbox-2/>) to resources. Church & Society have some other targeted programs. Intentional Faith Development (IFD) is also working on some other programming, however IFD may be the right committee to lead this work. We will put on a future agenda to continue discussion.

12. Vice-Chair Nominations

We are going to need someone. Please consider doing this! We will nominate next month.

Additionally, we need someone to go to the finance meeting on Feb. 21. Lindsey will attend in Karen A's absence.

13. Other Business

Doug brought up the idea about selling the choir robes that are no longer used. Doug will check with Lynette.

14. Closing Prayer

Sherri closed the group in prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Wood
Governance Board Secretary

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