



GUM CHURCH

Our vision is to actively live the example of Jesus

Governance Board Meeting Minutes Saturday, January 25, 2020

In attendance: Kyle Anderson, Jeri Bigler, *Carol DeWeerd, Dan DeZwaan, Mike Freude, John Johnson, Sue Kremkow, Amy Schuiling, Christine Webster, and *Sherri Swanson
*non-voting member

Absent: Craig Brodie

Amy Schuiling called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

Prayer Amy opened the meeting with prayer. Each member of the Governance Board offered an introduction and told about their history with the church.

Liaison Assignments

Governance Board functions to support ministries in the church. Each board member volunteered to contact those chairing these groups to bring to the board how we are living out the mission of the church. Assignment of these liaison pairings are on an enclosed list.

Updates on Old Business

1. Chartering the Boy Scout troop 354, which currently meets in our church. The Board has voted yes to sponsor the troop. Amy requested votes and comments via email and compiled the votes. Papers have not been signed as yet; but, the Board has confirmed our chartering of this group.
2. 2020 Budget - The budget has been slightly revised. Adjustments have been made. We are operating at a deficit and monies going in and out will be closely monitored. We usually have a strong year-end giving but this year was not the case. We have 16 new pledges this year but we still are projected to have a \$60,000 deficit of income for this coming year.
3. Flood update - The furnace/plumbing company who contributed to the cause of the flood is taking responsibility and working it out with our insurance company.

Committee Reports

Each board member was sent a copy of committee reports, which had been submitted to Carol. A summary of these reports is as follows:

~Church and Society - Christine Webster

- vision of this committee is to target topics about social media
- previous discussion groups have been well attended
- a panel discussion on “Bullying” will be held on Feb. 16 at 11:45 in the lounge (lunch provided)
- April 26 a discussion is planned for the topic “Keeping up with the Joneses”
- this committee is always looking for suggestions on new topics for future meetings

~**Finance-** no report

~**Missions- Mike Lee**

Mike reported that the Mission Team met in November and discussed the following items:

- additional funding to **Kid’s Food Basket**
- **Food Pantry:** The food pantry is going well. Generally 20+ individuals/families come in the 1st and 3d Tuesdays. The committee discussed funding for November and December.
- **Food truck/dinner:** Mike reported that they feel this is going better. They’ll continue to hold these on Friday before the Pantry day so if they have food left over they can use it in the pantry. They continue to serve approximately 65+ individuals/families. The next truck is scheduled for Feb. 28. The committee also discussed purchasing new signs for the Feeding America Free Food Distribution.
- **Appalachian mission trip** is scheduled for June 13-20, 2020. The next breakfast fundraiser is scheduled for Feb. 16. Each person attending the trip will pay approximately \$200. The goal is to raise \$2000 with \$500 already received from the last breakfast.
- **Hand 2 Hand** has started its fundraiser and Mike will share information on this at their next meeting. They need to find someone with a truck to help deliver the food to Hudsonville High School.
- **God’s Kitchen** is going well. We provide 2-3 persons every 2nd Saturday of the month.
- It was decided that the same seven “special” giving Sundays we have been doing for the last two years would remain. Mike received confirmation from Pastor Sherri that these dates are on the calendar for 2020. Christmas Eve service donations were given to UMCOR. The next meeting of the Missions Team will be Jan. 20, 2020.

~**SPRC - no report**

~**Trustees - Todd Potter**

Todd shared the goals for the Trustees in the coming year:

- working through the boiler issues
- revisiting the grade of the lawn on the 28th side of the church
- updating/replacing signage

- reworking the building usage policy
- replacing HVAC #4
- updating Memorial Garden plaque display
- cleaning the kitchen stove
- updating bathrooms to be ADA compliant
- staying on budget

~**Inter. Faith Development - Kay DeMoss** (no report)

Staff Reports

~**Communications /Hospitality - Heather Blaszczyk**

December was a very busy month. Heather reported that the focus now will be more on marketing for the new Lenten and winter studies. Website traffic has increased. More and more guests have shared that they are looking for an inclusive worship atmosphere. This shows us that we are clearly communicating our openness through our website and from the doors out front. We had two guests compliment the website last Sunday.

Hospitality is also doing well. There are a few snowbirds who are gone for the winter and a few other volunteers who have stepped away. But Heather is currently recruiting more volunteers and is planning on holding a hospitality meeting in February to review new tasks and procedures.

~**Office- Amy Schuiling**

Amy also reported that December was a very busy month in the office with everyone preparing for the many events that happen leading up to Christmas. Amy was also very busy preparing district and year end reports. The district reports were submitted in December. Amy reported that she was very grateful for Pastor Sherri's help, as well as Bill S., Jenny R. and Todd P for their help and timely responses. Excitement continued in her new position with the "flood" on Jan. 10. This did not affect the office area, but she notes that the cleanup persons did a fantastic job.

Amy tells the board that she is amazed at the many people who support our various ministries and activities each and every day. "We are truly blessed to be such a busy and connectional church and I am grateful to be here!"

~**Young Disciples Ministry-Sara Zallar**

This fall/winter in Young Disciples they have been working with a Bible Story Basics curriculum. Through the use of this curriculum parents/family are also involved; and , it engages the children. They enjoyed a meditative/reflective curriculum over Advent along with a service calendar which was shared with the church. Youth have partnered with Dégagé and with the adult class on Sundays. At Dégagé the youth help clean up/set up events, bake for the guests; and, Dégagé has visited GUM Church to put on a poverty simulation workshop.

~**Music and Worship - Alex Barringer**

Alex reported that he supervised the hanging of the greens and the subsequent removal. He also planned for Advent Sundays and two Christmas Eve services - in addition to his regular duties. He gives a huge thank you to the many volunteers who stepped up to help with the extra services. The

worship band is doing well, although the weather is posing a challenge for some members who drive 40-50 minutes to get to Sunday services. The tech teams are looking for more help. The Bell Choir is looking forward to finishing the year strong. “Thanks for your continued support “.

~Adult Choir - Lynette Cole

The Georgetown Choir has had a wonderful year. We welcomed a couple new members, even as we said goodbye to a few others. The Christmas Cantata was a highlight with the music of 19 extra instrumentalists - some from our congregation, and some guests, including GVSU students. Lynette stated that “it’s always a joy to work with such talented and giving people!”.

The choir also shared their joy of music with the American House.

The choir is affected by the loss of snowbirds. But the people who remain here are a “small, but mighty group”. Lynette reports that the choir members are so dedicated and continue to attend rehearsals and choir Sunday with so much spirit and love. It is always Lynette’s goal to make sure these talented, giving people are much appreciated.

“We look forward to more music ministry together and are grateful for a supportive church home to share God’s light and love.”

~Nursery Ministry - Amanda Hoskins

- Amanda reported that we have had a couple of new nursery families that are attending regularly.
- After removing all the toys and furniture in the nursery there now is new carpeting in the nursery. There was no damage to the equipment. The “old “ rocking chair has been upgraded and is now a nice, comfy glider for rocking church little ones!

Reconciling Ministries Network/Open Door Committee - Kyle Anderson

Kyle reported on the status of our church conference and joining the RMNetwork. At our church conference in November 145 people attended. 72% of our church favored joining the Network from the vote that day. However, the RMN has established a protocol of 75% approval. Therefore, at this time we are not affiliated with the Network. \$550 was collected at our conference and sent to the RMN.

Open Door Committee -

- some candidates are being considered to replace Katie Smith as the leader of this committee
- Trinity UMC is sponsoring speakers and will let us know when this is available
- GVSU - an effort is being made to build relationships with the Wesley Foundation students
- Bible study - was led by Katie Smith and she has agreed to lead another study beginning March 14
- Pride Center collection
- Open Door should consider working closely with Church/Society

Pastor’s Report - Sherri Swanson

- **Special Church Conference** - we had a large turnout of 145 members. The vote was 105 yes and 40 no, with a margin of 72%. It was an emotional and difficult meeting. Minimal discussion was anticipated but instead there was much debate. Some relationships in the church have been frayed but it was felt that this process gave the church some clarity in direction.
- We are disappointed that we are not an official member church of RMN - not meeting the 75% criteria.
- All the money contributed (\$550) was sent to **RMN** and Pastor Sherri recommended that a group within our church (such as ODC) might go ahead and join.
- Delegation Meetings - Two days in November in Chicago and Ft Wayne in July
- delegates from North Central Jurisdiction (Midwest) including most of the 20 of us from Michigan will be going
- 80% of the 177 delegates adopted a statement affirming our desire for full inclusion in our church
- delegation meeting earlier this month interviewed a candidate for Bishop, Kenneth Bigham-Tsai, and endorsed her
- most delegates view the Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation (released Jan. 3) as a positive development
- our Bishop has agreed to hold all complaints in abeyance (pertaining to same-gender weddings and LGBT clergy) until the Traditional Plan is dismantled.

Year-End Reports - Amy has been very busy with these, and year-end giving statements. Thanks to Bill S. and Jenny R. who spend hours as volunteers.

Shelby - Amy has deleted more than 900 entries - thereby getting a good handle on our data base and reducing costs possibly this summer.

Attendance - average for 2019 was 250; 2018 was 254. Drop of 1 1/2%. Comments from these attendees were: hospitality and warmth, Amanda and the nursery, variety of age groups.

IFD - planning several Lenten studies (4 different small groups) - Pastor Sherri will be leading one.

Leadership Development - meeting next week, still working to fill two remaining positions on SPR

Baptisms - 3 recently

New Member Class - is underway with 12 people - 8 are young couples). Comments from these attendees about the church: hospitality and warmth, very comfortable, Amanda and the nursery, and variety of age groups.

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Security - coordinator and couple of volunteers resigned, leaving a small team. Scott Davis will now chair. We've recruited 3 others so now we are up to 9. Would like to have 12-13. Scott and a fellow Sheriff deputy completed a report on the security of our church. He had some security concerns regarding environmental design and locks. Discussion was held on: do we have protocols for fire drills? All fire extinguishers are up to date. Kyle has volunteered to be the liaison with the Security Team.

Flood - Todd has done an amazing job. We now have new carpeting in the nursery, hallways have been done with replacement squares we had saved, lounge yet to be carpeted, and still need baseboards in the kitchen and wood replacement panels by the gym doors.

Building Manager - with all the concerns which have arisen regarding the heat, the flood, and building security, this topic has recently resurfaced with the Trustees and SPRC.

Budget - 16 new pledges, great but not enough to make up for pledges lost. It is estimated that we will have \$61,000 less income. Therefore a 20% reduction has been instituted in almost all program areas, except staff costs through SPRC and building costs through Trustees.

RSO - This agreement has been renewed for another year.

Continuing Education - Pastor Sherri had a rare opportunity for her small group of 8 to have a private meeting with Walter Brueggemann last month. Next Friday she is going to Mason. The morning session will focus on getting visitors connected and discipleship; in the afternoon she will hear about developing ministry descriptions that clarify expectations and outcomes for accountability. Heather will be going also.

Advent - Sherri reports that she had some very positive feedback on her sermon series.

Other Duties - Pastor Sherri preached at Clark Retirement Community last month.

Joys and Concerns: Sherri requested prayers for her brother-in-law MJ who has been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer with only a 5% chance of surgery. Prayers too for Ben who has moved to Hawaii for a new job.

Thank You -

To all the staff and committee leaders who submitted reports to the Board. We appreciate all you do for the church.

2020 Meetings

The meetings of 2020 were decided and are as follows:

March 7, 2020 (Kyle will do devotions)

December 5, 2020

May 9, 2020
August 15, 2020

Adjournment

Mike Freude closed our meeting with prayer.
Meeting adjourned at 10:48 am

Next meeting: March 7, 2020 at 9:00 am

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol DeWeerd
Governance Board Secretary