



GUM CHURCH

Our vision is to actively live the example of Jesus

Governance Board Meeting Agenda

May 23, 2022 | 7pm

Library

In attendance: Karen Ambs, Doug Barry, Dan DeZwaan, Ashley Forton, Kelly Goward, Sue Kremkow, Marie McDonald, Karen Strickland, *Sherri Swanson, *Michelle Wood (*non-voting member)

Absent: Shaun Skibinski

- 1. Devotions/Welcome** – Karen A. led the group in devotions and encouraged the board to think about gratitude, specifically being *intentional* about gratitude. She shared the bible verse from 1 Thessalonians 5:16. Karen challenged the board to think about what we are grateful for and why. We were encouraged to send a note of gratitude to someone in the church.

2. Pastor's Update

Worship Attendance

- *has been climbing over the past two months
- *over 100 every week since 3-20-22
- *at or close to 150 twice this month
- *Easter – 280 which is 200 more than last year & 200 less than 3 years ago, lots of guests
- *Good Friday – 24

New Members

- *9 people completed the class
- *7 of them joined the church on 5-15-22 (please try to get acquainted with these people & welcome them)

Staff

- *hired Todd Avery for Hospitality, lots of energy & enthusiasm
- *said farewell to Kelly Branch who was working with youth

Georgetown United Methodist Church * 2766 Baldwin Street * Jenison, Michigan 49428

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Staff, cont.

- *Asst. Dir. of Young Disciples Ministry position posted
- *concern for Lynette whose mother is receiving Hospice care

Coaching

- *continuing monthly
- *beneficial; helping me reframe things and take a longer or wider view

Annual Church Conference

- *my meeting with the District Superintendent is this week
- *don't have the date yet for fall

Leadership

- *will need to begin recruiting leaders for 2023 soon (over the summer)
- *will need people on most committees (GB, S-PRC, Trustees, Leadership Development, plus others)
- *looking for suggestions
- *want to convey expectation of commitment: prayers, presence, gifts, service & witness

Discipleship

- *seems weak among many of our members
- *people attend much less frequently than they used to do, also volunteer less time & give less money
- *lots of people only come to worship when they have a job to do: choir, bells, Sunday School, greeters, ushers, tech booth
- *some people are disappointed in the summer service with alternating styles

Summer

- *excited about VBS
- *will have just one worship service at 10:00
- *fewer meetings expected

Annual Conference (Michigan Conference)

- *June 1-4 in Traverse City
- *Deb Burg will be leading worship on June 5

Midwest District Listening Session

- *June 13, 6:30, Wesley Park UMC in Wyoming.

General Conference

- *GUM is currently in holding pattern, no voting at this point

Inclusive & Informed

*organization contacted me

*they would like to do a feature story (FB post) about our church

*I have not had the time, if someone else would like to work on that (will ask Sidney)

Personal

*20 years since Pastor Sherri was diagnosed with cancer. Celebrating continuing health!

Family

*got to see all of our sons over Mother's Day weekend

*planning a family get-together over 4th of July weekend

*Son, Tom, just dropped a new album and he was featured on a local, NPR program.

*parents doing pretty well, though still health concerns; hoping to see them this summer

3. Reports from Ministry Groups

- a. Karen A – Children's Music Ministry: Lindsey M. was surprised her name was still there. Much has shifted to Kerri and she is planning something musical with the kids twice a year. Prayer Group: Prayer group is now a prayer chain, led by Liz. J.
- b. Kelly – Church & Society: Good response to card making day. Will put together some fall programming in the future. Landscaping Team: no update. Things are in good shape for now.
- c. Ashley – Family Camp: Family camp has many families signed up. Prayer Shawl –Prayer Shawl group still meeting, numbers down but working on a new project.
- d. Marie – Intentional Faith Development: Met in March and will meet again in July to prepare for Fall planning. UMW – Good response on bake sale. All 4 circles are continuing to meet.
- e. Karen S. – Java Center: no update.

4. Staff and Committee Reports

Updates were shared prior to the meeting (posted at end of minutes.) Will request in Fall and Spring.

5. Old Business

- a. Nominate a Vice Chair – Karen A. is considering the position.

6. New Business

- a. Child Protection Policy (see attachment(s)) - Full policy and revised policy. Policy has not been updated for some time. Kerri has presented policy for approval. Governance Board agreed that it is very clear and thorough. Very appreciative of all the time and effort gone in to drafting the policy.

MOTION: Karen A. made motion to present the policy to the board for approval.

SECONDED: Ashley seconded the motion.

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

- b. Building use – Baton twirlers interested in using our building again for their use. Concerns: no custodial service, currently limited cleaning for bathrooms, security, past rate paid for use. The board agreed that we will stick with the policy as written. This included keeping the rates standard for all groups that inquire.

- c. Softball field use – Softball field use is under building use agreement, but no rate associated with it. Someone has been using the field without permission. Some vandalism has been noted. Sherri will reach out to Pete Priest (had permission and paid to use the field) and Holy Redeemer to inquire about any use. After gathering further information, police report will be filed.

The board discussed signage at the field and agreed that a sign could be made and laminated indicating that the field has to be reserved through the church office and includes contact information.

The discussion about rate of softball field tabled until next meeting.

- d. April Financial Report – End of April, \$15,000 short and projected to be \$45,000 at end of year. Income is falling short. Discussion about offering and passing the plate. If so, we'll need more ushers. Is there value in that – either more worshipful or monetarily? No decision made, just on radar.

- e. Planning for Kickoff Sunday – September 11 – Committee needed with chairperson. Reach out to past members to help. Ashley will start an email chain to set up a meeting to begin the discussion.
- f. Contacting members – Volunteers were asked to contact those who have not been attending.
- g. Native American Awareness – Statement of land acknowledgement for future. Table for next meeting. Many resources available to refer to.
- h. Other: Connecting with new members. For future discussion.

7. Future Meetings

July 25 (Mon, 7pm), Sept 24 (Sat, 9am), Nov 19 (Sat, 9am)

8. Closing Prayer

The meeting was closed with prayer and adjourned.

Next meeting is July 25, 7pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Wood

Governance Board Secretary

STAFF UPDATES:

Music, Worship, and IT – Alex Barringer

May 2022 - After another busy year, the Music and Worship Teams are looking forward to things slowing down a bit for the summer. The Bell Choir played their final Sunday of the season this past week and the choir will be performing their final anthem this coming Sunday. Both groups are planning to take the summer off and return in the fall. The worship band is also looking forward to playing every other Sunday during the summer due to the alternating styles each week.

Despite still having a few holes in the volunteer rotation, the current team of sound and video tech volunteers have gotten the job done! With the addition of streaming into our normal two-service Sunday, the job is a little more involved and the team has risen to the task! We plan to stream our one service during the summer and then return to this current format in the fall.

The IT department is happy to report that things are running smoothly. The new sanctuary computer built last year by Ryan Malott runs beautifully and handles the streaming service without any issues. We did need to replace Pastor Sherri's laptop, but aside from that all staff computers seems to be working well. We will re-evaluate when a new Assistant Director of Young Disciples is hired.

Thanks to the Governance Board for your continued support!

Adult Choir – Lynette Cole

The Georgetown Choir has continued to provide music ministry throughout the year. After singing in person for the first time since the pandemic for Christmas, we continued to do both virtual choir and in person choir in the beginning of the year. This gave people with different needs an opportunity to sing regardless of their situation. At the end of March, we ended virtual choir and began singing twice a month in person.

While our numbers are significantly down, the choir members who are still singing with us are working very hard with great attitudes. We are finding music that works for a smaller group and enjoying being together in our rehearsals. And the joy of creating harmony for those who listen is something that can't be described fully in words. But we hope it feels like God in some way. It does to us.

The challenges we have experienced this year have been met head on by the amazing group of singers I get to work with. We also have been blessed to have several GUM member musicians join us with their strings and brass, as well as some of our youth who joined to sing with us when the women did an SSA selection. The talent we have here has always been excellent and that is evident still.

As far as the future plans we have, we don't exactly know if the current Sunday pattern will continue. Our intent will be to keep singing in the fall after our summer hiatus in the best way possible. As always, I want to recognize the significance of Alex Barringer. We are so very fortunate to have had his expertise, flexibility and patience throughout this year.

Communications – Sidney Yin

Website

- refresh homepage and navigational design for desktop and mobile views
- branding image slide carousel
- restructured archival system for newsletters
- added a permanent link for live-stream videos

Future:

- review website logo and potential name change pending possible denominational changes
- review possible website revamp with new website hosting/template

Newsletter

- restructured newsletter design and organization for clarity and engagement
- maintenance of mailing list vs Shelby database

Future:

- redesign newsletter template for a refreshed look

Electronic Sign

- update posts to animated designs
- set up remote update software from away

Facebook

- started a test ad campaign and moving onto analysis stage
- weekly posts with engaging posts
- engage with live-stream participants weekly

Future:

- engage with digital community not already attending GUM
- restart instagram account with added photos for engagement

General

- starting a member corner project
- starting a video announcement campaign
- codified a new next-step card process
- update weekly announcement loop to match website slides for current communications needs

Future:

- new photo directory project

GUMC Office - Amy Schuiling

Our office continues to officially be open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-1. We are in at other times, as well, but advertise these times to make sure someone is available to assist visitors and answer the phones at those specific times. Traffic in the building has been picking up, and it's great to be seeing people again! Of course, our volunteers doing finance, landscaping and running our food programs are here often, as well!

We continue to have a cleaning service in the building each Friday and bathroom sanitization service every other week. Our trash pickup was changed to every other week when we resumed service, and the mats we rent are now changed out monthly.

Our copier lease will expire this summer, and I met with two company representatives recently to hear their pitches on the new machines they proposed for our office. After some deliberation and negotiating we will continue to lease from Noordyke Business Equipment, and our new monthly expenses will be less than what we are currently paying. This decrease is due to the type of machine we will be leasing and the fact that there will no longer be a buyout rollover included in the cost as there was five years ago.

We are excited to welcome new members on May 15 and have also begun the job of carefully analyzing our current membership rosters. We will soon be sending letters out to people who haven't connected with GUMC either through their attendance or their financial gifts during the past two years to find out if they are attending another church or if they do plan to return to worship with us. It is important that we have a realistic membership roster.

Our staff continues to meet each week and I am grateful for the time we have to connect with each other. I am thankful for each one of them!

Young Disciples – Kerri DeZwaan

As our Education season wraps up, and with the resignation of Kelly Branch, we are taking a moment to reflect on where we are at and where we are going next. It has been a very busy season!

Youth has continued to meet, using the Colossians way curriculum. After some feedback from parents, kids, and leaders, we are going to take a similar path next year, but with a twist. Our goal is to adapt the curriculum to be more interactive; bringing in different videos, activities, and guest speakers to make sure we are staying current and engaging. On May 15, Youth will meet for the last time, for a bon fire and celebration of the year. We also have at least one activity per month planned for this summer for the students, including the incoming Youth.

Children's Ministry has been busy as well. Sunday School has been growing, with a high of 35 kids on Easter! That was so much fun! We were prepared, and it went really well! We had a couple really low weeks, due to sickness, but on average, we get about

15-18 kids on a normal week. We are still dividing up into two groups, older and younger, and that format is working well. I will be sending out a survey early summer to determine our plans for next fall. We are going to continue to work with Sherri on planning our curriculum concurrently with her sermon series. Currently, I am struggling to find leaders to help this summer, so we are examining our options.

Edge continues to meet monthly. The kids put together fun Valentines bags for some of our senior members of the congregation. They were met with much appreciation. On May 15, we will be headed to the whitecaps with 8 Edge kids and 2 leaders, including 2 new kids who have recently been attending GUM. This summer, we will have at least one planned activity per month for the kids.

We have continued our commitment to go to at least 2 events this year for all the kids who have provided us a schedule or an event to attend. We have reached that goal, and even surpassed it. Recently, we had a student, who lives quite a distance from church, indicate how happy he was that "his people" from church took the time to attend his performance. That really makes it so worth it!

This summer will be full of VBS, Family Camp and tons of planning and curriculum writing for the fall. I am looking forward to what is to come, and the possibilities that will present themselves and hoping that as people are coming back to worship our volunteer pools will increase as well, which will bring so much life to our programs, and allow us to think forward – to new opportunities and mission.

Nursery – Amanda Hoskins

Since reopening the nursery there haven't been very high numbers. The nursery has been working on communicating with families with nursery aged children. Whether it is a check-in email or a handwritten note. This includes new families that attend and families that we haven't seen in a while. I plan to continue this in the future as well to encourage families and make them feel welcomed.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Trustees – Todd Potter, Chair

Displays in Memorial Garden installed

- Removing raised garden beds
- Cleaning/degreasing kitchen exhaust fan
- Removing dead/fallen trees in the woods

Here is what is on the radar yet this year:

- Repair/replace portions of the parking lot
- Exterior signage replacement and removal
- Wax gym floor
- Replace rotted office windows

S-PRC – Jeff Wood, Co-Chair

SPRC started off the new year with three new members (Linda Stratton, Mary Lane, and Christine Webster) joining the committee. We still have one vacancy to fill. 2022 has continued to keep us busy with the hiring of Sidney Yin as Communications Specialist and Todd Avery as Hospitality Specialist. It was great to have a full staff for the first time for a short period of time shortly before Kelly Branch announced her departure. Since then, the group has worked with Kerri to rework the Assistant Director of Young Disciples job description. The open position has been posted and the search has begun. In the meantime, we are working to find ways to support Kerri. The COVID protocols for staff have been updated as guidelines changed earlier in the year. The committee has also started to review staff evaluations that have begun to come in over the last few months and will continue to filter in the coming months. There is a bit more energy in the staff with the rise in attendance and activities as well as more time spent together in recent months. We look forward to having a full staff together to lead into the fall.

Missions - Joy Freude, Chair

The Missions Team is currently participating in the Engagemi program. Engagemi is the mission engagement program for the Michigan Conference. Our budget for 2022 has proposed contributions to 14 organizations that are identified in Engagemi program. These include: Justice for Our Neighbors, North End Community Ministries, Pathfinders, South End Community Outreach Ministries, UM Community House, Wesley Fellowship at GVSU, Michigan-Covenant Partnership, Refresh Hygiene Hope, McCurdy Ministries Community Center, Red Bird Christian School, Babyfold at Old Mutare, Haitian Artians for Peace International, Bishop Craig Children's Village, Randy Hildebrandt, and UMCOR. We also send annual contributions to the Grand Rapids Kids' Food Basket and La Nueva Esperanza, which are local ministries that are not part of this program. One of our responsibilities is to coordinate the distribution of the budgeted funds to these ministries. GUMC has supported many of these groups annually for many years. Our ongoing GUMC mission projects are Food Pantry, Hand 2 Hand, and the Feeding America Food Truck and dinners provided for the families that come to the Food Truck distributions. The Food Pantry has about 12-16 families that participate regularly. Hand 2 Hand provides food for about 40 students at Hudsonville High School who have been identified as food insecure over the weekends. The Food Truck distributes food for 60-70 families 6 times a year and we also provide a dinner for those families on the night of the distribution.

New mission projects this year are the two Blessing Boxes and Beyond 26. The Blessing Boxes were built by a local Eagle Scout last year in coordination with our Food Pantry. They are located by the parking lots. The Food Pantry now supplies the food for them. The goal of these boxes is to be able to provide food for community families whenever needed. The Beyond 26 project collected 7 boxes of materials for shredding

and \$90 for this local group. Also this spring, Kay and Lynn DeMoss had an Olive Wood fundraiser for UMCOR (Ukraine).

GUMC also has collections throughout the year some of these are, the Walk for Good Food (Access of West Michigan), PRIDE, Diaper Drive, and GVSU student survival kits, etc. These are not specific Mission Team projects but are supported by our church. We make contacts and promote collections for these organizations. An upcoming project is the Love Your Neighbor's Stuff the Bus collection in July. This project provides school supplies for local students.

Other upcoming projects include Hand 2 Hand providing food for summer school students at Hudsonville High School and plans to provide onsite meals for the Food Truck participants in August and for the remainder of the year.