



# GUM CHURCH

Our vision is to actively live the example of Jesus

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## Governance Board Meeting Agenda

July 25, 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**

Marie led the group in devotions and shared a devotion from The Upper Room. It reminded us to look up and pay attention. Be present to what is around us. She then led the group in prayer.

### 2. **Decision to approve future minutes by email** (\*added to agenda.)

All were in favor of approving future minutes by email before they are shared on website.

### 3. **Pastor's Update**

Pastoral

\*baptism of Eadeh twins

\*three weddings in process

\*funeral last month

Worship Attendance

\*worship attendance after Easter was close to 150, however now average is 80-85

## Worship Attendance, cont.

\*members who have not been attending for a while have been returning in the last few weeks

## New Members

\*starting another new member class in the fall.

## Coaching

\*continuing monthly

\*involved in area “pastors meetings” – one at Fair Haven for prayers for schools. This month was invited to group of “progressive” clergy.

## Staff

\*Amanda is interim summer Assistant Director of Young Disciples for the summer.

\*Over the summer, staff are meeting twice a month instead of weekly (breakfast and mid-day)

\*last few payrolls were delayed - sorting that issue out.

## Discipleship

\*VBS was good (37 kids) -- Kerri and Amanda were highly organized.

## Leadership

\*leadership development team beginning to fill openings.

## Annual Church Conference

\*MI Annual Conference was held in-person this year (1500 in attendance)

## Finances

\*very concerned about the financial situation - \$43,000 deficit.

\*income has been decreased.

Finances, cont.

\*only \$90,000 in general operating fund (would like to keep over \$100,000).

\*suggested that there is some cross group conversation with Governance board and other groups (e.g. finance committee)

Personal

\*up north for 4<sup>th</sup> of July with all of her family

\*Dad is turning 90 and will celebrate with him later this week.

#### **4. Reports from Ministry Groups**

a. Sue –

Cribbage: Reserve space in Sept – May and about 15 people attend.

Lay Leader: no update

Memorial Garden: Questions about who is doing backerboard and what it looks like? Sue volunteered and said that she and Jim will keep it moving forward.

b. Michelle –

Men's Basketball: still going, but take a break in the summer

c. Shaun –

Men's Golf: will take off the list due lack of current church members in group

Senior Bowling: no update

Ashley updated about Family Camp and said there were 14 families and 56 total people. Great time and lots of fun. She added that Kerri did a great job with kids programming.

Discussion about whether we should we be asking groups if they are still affiliating with GUM and welcoming of everyone who attends. How should we handle the groups moving forward? Do we consider all groups still affiliated with the church? It was suggested that we use the first and second year lists that are sent to those who do not attend and make determinations

based on what we hear from those. Members *can* choose to withdraw membership.

## 5. Old Business

- a. Nominate a Vice Chair - Karen A. has agreed to accept the nomination.  
**MOTION:** Kelly made motion to accept Karen A. as Vice Chair  
**SECONDED:** Karen S. seconded the motion.  
**VOTE:** All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.
- b. Planning for Kickoff Sunday – Kickoff Sunday will be on September 11 with one service that day. Several people attended the planning meeting. Lots of ideas – human bingo, scavenger hunt, food. More planning to come.
- c. COVID Protocols (masking) - Affirming of protocols already in place (see Church Mask policy from [March minutes](#).) Beginning August 24, masking no longer required for 5 years old and under. The board agreed that the policy continues as written.
- d. Update on softball field – Priest Landscaping admitted to the field damage and have repaired it. The Governance Board has asked that Trustees look at other companies with whom to do business.
- e. Contacting members – several board members reached out to members who have not been attending. Pastor Sherri noted that giving has gone down a little in 2022.

## 6. New Business

- a. Finance Committee attendance – In the case that Kelly cannot attend, a board member will need to fill in. On August 16 at 7pm, Karen A., Dan and Doug will attend. Karen A. has offered to be first backup if Kelly cannot attend.
- b. Assign liaison to SPRC - Doug has offered to be a liaison.
- c. Commitment to Leadership (see attached) - Key groups have been given this commitment to leadership. Governance Board is in agreement that these expectations are still relevant.

- d. Date for fall Church Conference – Pastor Sherri reported that Nov. 6 would be the date for our Church Conference. Following the meeting, the Governance Board was notified that this date would need to be moved to Nov. 13. This will be in-person, after the second service. The conference will be for 1.) electing leadership 2.) reviewing membership roll and 3.) setting Pastor’s compensation.
- e. Native American Awareness – statement of land acknowledgement – is there some guidance that could be brought to governance board? Ashley will look into it and bring back to the board for our next meeting.
- f. New member buddies –Sherri will pilot this in September with the new member class and use governance board members as “buddies.”

**7. Future Meetings:**

Sept 24 (Sat, 9am) (Sue offered to bring treats)

Nov 19 (Sat, 9am)

**8. Closing Prayer**

The meeting was closed with prayer and adjourned.