



GUM CHURCH

Our vision is to actively live the example of Jesus

Governance Board Meeting Agenda

September 24, 2022 | 9 am

Library

In attendance: Doug Barry, Kelly Goward, Marie McDonald, Karen Strickland, *Sherri Swanson, *Michelle Wood (*non-voting member)

Absent: Karen Ambs, Dan DeZwaan, Ashley Forton, Sue Kremkow, Shaun Skibinski

1. Devotions

Doug led the group in devotions with, "[Jesus Modeled for Our Class Today](http://www.progressivechristianity.org)" from www.progressivechristianity.org

2. Pastor's Update

Pastoral

- Two weddings – one at GUM and one at the Zoo and another one in the works
- Baptism schedule for Sunday, Oct. 2
- New Member Class delayed because only 1 person interested, but will try again

Groups

- Game nights – 2 times/month. Well attended.
- Pub theology – 2 times/month. 13 people attended the first one.
- Coffee and chat – 1 time/month
- Two new weekly classes
- Women's circles

Missions

- Approached by Kids Hope and Samaritas about Refugee Resettlement. Missions committee does not feel they have manpower to take on either of these.

Memorial Garden

- Sue Kremkow and her husband took on project but ran into some obstacles. Going to move forward with panels to hold the plaques. The work will be done by Signs by Design out of Allendale. Rose G. and trustees have approved.

Signs

- Some outdoor signs on 28th Ave. side have been removed but not yet decided on how to replace. Sherri and Amy are looking into possibly getting letters on all main doors (i.e. Door A, etc.).

Softball Field

- Getting a lot of use by two non-church groups. GUM is receiving a nominal fee for that use.

Trustees

- At the last Governance Board meeting ([July 25 minutes](#)), the Governance Board asked that Trustees look at other companies with whom to do business with for our landscaping needs. Todd P. had a long conversation and does not want to “throw out the baby with the bathwater.” They have been reliable and manage the property at a high level. They even recently added new benches at the softball field. Pete (owner of Priest Landscaping) and Todd feel there is good communication now. Additionally, leadership will be changing in 2023 and perhaps the new chairperson would like to revisit this then.

Congregational Care Team

- This team is being formed to make visits to older (mostly home bound) members and offer them communion, if desired. Got materials from Church of the Resurrection and will hold brief training in Oct. to kick off. So far, Pastor Sherri has talked to three people who may be interested.

New Local Pastors Group

- Started this summer, continue to meet monthly, and rotate church buildings.

General Conference Delegation

- Getting ready for North Central Jurisdiction Nov. 2-5 in Fort Wayne. On 9/17, spent 9 ½ hours on a Zoom call interviewing 10 Bishop candidates. Our bishop will likely be moving on but will not know officially until Nov.

Pre-Retirement Seminar

- Pastor Sherri and her husband, Brad, will attend pre-retirement seminar first week of October.

Family

- Last month, Pastor Sherri had the chance to see her baby brother for the first time in 4 years when he made a surprise visit from Australia.
- Son, Sam, got engaged.

3. Reports from Ministry Groups

a. Kelly -

Church & Society: Planning fall programming – “how to reset” and will try to get back the Christmas event cancelled last year.

Security Team: Security team chair, Scott Davis, resigned from position. Responsibility now is currently being shared among several people.

Toys4Tots: GUM will not be hosting anymore

b. Dan DeZwaan –

Community Cupboard: Karen A. is helping Rainie with Community Cupboard. Blessing boxes get heavy usage and have been found empty.

Food Truck: Next date is Oct. 14

Hand2Hand: Going well

c. Marie –

Intentional Faith Development: New classes going well. 10 at Kay's group, 6 at Coffee and Chat, Bev's group introduction meeting had a good size group (20?), UMW groups are meeting and doing well. Will meet for advent planning soon. Waiting to see if Ashley can do a zoom class - TBD

d. Sherri –

Leadership Development Team: Still recruiting for Governance Board and SPRC (Nicole Tuinstra is stepping down).

e. Doug –

SPRC: Putting on pause Assistant Director of Young Disciple's position. Hired Kerri for additional 10 hours/week temporarily.

4. Old Business

a. Kickoff Sunday Recap (September 11):

Well-attended and well-received. 169 in worship, 21 kids in Sunday School, 3 babies in Nursery, 7 Edge and 9 Youth at their kickoff events. 10 members returned after being gone for a while, 10 new guests and 10 who joined later for meal and activities. Staff and volunteers did a fantastic job!

b. Finance Committee joint meeting (August 16):

Cross Committee conversation. There was good conversation and ideas, however, no plans for follow up were made. One of the ideas brought up was moving to only one service. Staff discussed and were open to it but would appreciate advanced planning and if a decision was made, that it would be made by the end of Oct. for implementation in January. Governance Board needs to schedule a meeting in Oct. to discuss this idea. Kelly will propose two dates to the Governance Board – Saturday, Oct. 15th or Monday Oct. 24. for this special meeting. In the meantime, guidelines for what we should look for include: Attendance, staff feedback, new visitors, etc. Also discussed was the idea of the return of “flight plans” for starting groups. This discussion will be added to the agenda for the November meeting.

- c. Fall Church Conference reminder (November 13):
In-person at 11:30am
- d. New member buddies:
New member class is on hold, so we'll move forward with new member buddies with the next group.
- e. Native American Awareness – statement of land acknowledgement:
Michelle found an example of one that she will share by email to Governance Board for further review.

5. New Business

- a. Christmas Day:
Pre-recorded service by Conference will be shared. Should building be opened on Christmas Day? Can we offer online only? Those in attendance affirmed and Kelly will ask by email for affirmation by Governance Board not in attendance.

Action taken by e-mail since meeting:

In email, Kelly asked the board the following: “We discussed keeping the building closed on Christmas Day. A lot of effort will go into 2 Christmas Eve services and on Christmas Day, a pre-recorded service will be shown. The recording will be made available during the regular worship service time online, which Alex can set up in advance. We all agreed that it makes sense to keep the building closed and encourage people to watch the recording from home. **Let me know if you support keeping the building closed on Christmas Day.**”

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

- b. Rainbow doors maintenance:
Spring of 2024 is general conference and doors will be out until then. Open door committee is now defunct. Should they be replaced with something else – banner, feather flags, etc.? Or can someone maintain

the doors? Decision to wait and see how they look in the Spring. May have to repaint in the Spring. If office staff notice the doors have fallen and cannot put them back up, notify Michelle and Kelly and they will make plans to take care of.

- c. COVID policy update (addition to agenda): Due to CDC guidance continually changing, should our policy change to follow that? Kelly will add to email to ask for email vote.

Action taken by e-mail since meeting:

In email, Kelly asked the board the following: “We discussed the fact that our current COVID policy is in conflict with current CDC guidelines, which is confusing. We discussed repealing the current policy and replacing it with a simple statement like "For all matters related to COVID-19, GUM Church will follow and ask that members and attendees follow guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Current CDC COVID-19 guideline can be found online at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/index.html>. **Let me know if you support this change to repeal the previous COVID-19 protocols and replace it with the previous simplified statement and reference to the CDC guidelines.”**

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

6. Future Meetings

Oct. 24 (Mon, 7pm)

Nov. 19 (Sat, 9am)

7. Closing Prayer

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