



GUM CHURCH

Our vision is to actively live the example of Jesus

Governance Board Meeting Agenda March 26, 2022 | 9am

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

Actions taken by e-mail since our last meeting:

Church Mask policy: On March 1, Kelly proposed the masking requirement end for in-person worship and other church events (with the exception of nursery and children, as they follow a separate mask policy approved by the board on 1/31/2022.). The following language for congregation communication was proposed:

- Masks are no longer required for attending worship or other in-person adult events at the church.
- Nursery, children and youth will follow a separate mask policy proposed by staff and approved by the Governance Board on January 31, 2022.
 - Masking will remain mandatory for Sunday School until 60 days past when the vaccine is available for kids ages 3 & 4.
 - Masking will be optional for all EDGE events
 - Masking will be optional for all YOUTH events
- Following CDC guidelines, we ask that you wear a mask if you are symptomatic, have tested positive for COVID or have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive.

- The Governance Board will continue to monitor data and adjust this policy based on data and guidance provided by the Ottawa County Dept of Public Health, the Michigan Dept of Health and Human Services and the CDC.

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

1. Devotions/Welcome

Kelly shared a devotion about mindfulness - Seven Christian Mindfulness Exercises to See God in Daily Life. Kelly led the board in prayer.

2. Pastor's Update

- 2 funerals, 1 wedding. Grateful that the mask requirement was lifted (especially for the wedding).
- Pastor Sherri informed the board that she will be officiating a same sex wedding at the church. This may have consequences due to postponement of the General Conference. There is a possibility that Sherri could be charged. Sherri received support from the governance board.
- Preaching on Seven Deadly Sins. She has been reading books along to way to support sermon series.
- The study group, "Sinning Like A Christian", meetings on Thursday and there are 9 participants.
- New member class after Easter – 3 people.
- Ash Wednesday included imposition via drive thru (12 people) and 17 people for an in-person service.
- Good Friday – Tenebrae service at 7pm. No Maundy Thursday service.
- Sidney now on staff as communications specialist.
- One applicant for hospitality position.
- Luncheon last month for finance volunteers. Grateful for all they do.
- Staff workshop with all staff – led by Becky Staal. Really good to be together and learn together.
- District wide training ([Cabin Fever Virtual Event](#)) on Zoom was in February.

- Rainbow doors brought to Sherri's attention again. Sherri recommended bringing any concerns to the Governance Board.
- Sherri updated on her family. Her mom has had some heart issues and is now on blood thinners, so concerned about that. Her sons are well and will be visiting with them soon.
- Sherri is working hard but working hard with little gain. She has been sending letters to members. Most Sundays, we have one fifth in attendance. She does not feel like it's all COVID related. The board asked about taking some load off Sherri and help with any follow up. A suggestion was made about holy week messaging/communication. Sherri stated she would be putting together a paper letter for Easter.

3. Update on Boy Scouts

No update since last meeting.

4. Review current COVID/masking policy (masks no longer required, may be if _____?)

- Is there a threshold for when to implement again? The previous threshold was 10%. Should we consider new CDC guidance and look at the color coded map – green, yellow, orange.

MOTION: Karen A. made the motion that we use the CDCs integrated county view. If green, masking is optional; if yellow, masking is encouraged; if orange, masking is required. The Governance Board will continue to monitor.

SECONDED: Sue seconded the motion.

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

5. Reports from Ministry Groups

- a. Pantry, Feeding America Food Truck, Hand 2 Hand, Open Door Committee – Dan -- no updates. Open door is not currently functioning.

- b. Forever Young – Marie connected with Connie. Not much happening with that group. Several do not attend GUM anymore. Not planning on continuing.
 - c. Kitchen committee, Security Team – Kelly – did not connect
 - d. Mom’s Bible Study – Ashley – did not connect
- Marie will check in with UMW for next meeting.
 - Reports from staff before next meeting.
 - Church and society update from Kelly – Card making event on 3/27 (13 signed up)

6. Nominate a Vice Chair

Tabled to make a decision for next meeting.

7. Other issues

Karen A. mentioned a new family attending, who had specific questions about indigenous people. What is our church’s position on that? There is a denominational statement in the book of resolution. Kelly suggested some education resources be discovered before the next meeting so we can add to agenda for further discussion.

8. Leadership Exercise

Kelly led the group in a Communication Styles Assessment

9. Future Meeting Schedule:

Suggested: July 25 (Mon), Sept. 24 (Sat), Nov. 19 (Sat)

10. Closing Prayer

The meeting was closed with a prayer and adjourned.

Next meeting is May 23, 7pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Wood

Governance Board Secretary