



GUM CHURCH

Our vision is to actively live the example of Jesus

Governance Board Meeting Minutes

Saturday, July 17, 2021 9:00 a.m.

In attendance: Jeri Bigler, Dan DeZwaan, Ashley Forton, Amy Schuiling, Shaun Skibinski, Karen Strickland, Sherri Swanson (non-voting member)

Absent: Kelly Goward, John Johnson, Sue Kremkow

Devotions/Welcome

Dan opened the meeting with a devotion about attitude. Although there are many things we have no control over in our lives, we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we embrace. He followed with a prayer.

Thank you to Dan and Shaun for providing donuts!

Governance Board Secretary

Carol DeWeerd is currently experiencing health issues, so Amy Schuiling will assume secretarial duties for the remainder of 2021. We continue to keep Carol in our prayers and will send her flowers from the Governance Board.

Pastor's Report

Sherri reported that these past few months have been a busy time. In addition to the usual weekly duties, there have been a total of seven funerals either within our building or held at other locations, staff transitions and preparation for our annual Charge Conference, which is coming up in September.

Staff: Kelly Branch has recently been hired by SPRC as our Assistant Director of Young Disciples Ministry. Kelly's first day was Monday, July 12. The open position for Communications and Hospitality Director has recently been posted. Heather will continue working in this position until the end of July. She will be greatly missed and some of her duties will be assumed by Amy and church volunteers until we hire a replacement.

(cont.)

Staff gathered in person yesterday for the first time in 16 months to say goodbye to Heather and welcome Kelly. It was great to meet in person again!

Worship/Java: Last Sunday we had 68 in person worshippers at our 10:30 service. This included 11 brand new guests. Our average in person attendance is 58, which is 23% of our previous average, but we are also averaging four new guests per week, which is an increase. Sherri is hoping we will get more people to return to worship soon, since there are so many who have not been back in person yet.

Sherri has started to take over Children's time.

Java Time was held outdoors last month and will be held in the gym tomorrow, July 18. We hope for one per month in the summer and pray that we will find a coordinator to oversee this ministry beginning in the fall.

Office: We are beginning to see more people in the office during open hours. Some have prearranged appointments, but many are just dropping by. It has been great to have in-person conversations with people once again.

Charge Conference: Tuesday, September 14 at 7:15 p.m. is the date of our annual Charge Conference. Elected leaders will be invited to attend this Zoom meeting when our 2022 committee leaders, membership list and other various items will be presented and voted on by those in attendance.

Personal: Sherri will be out of town for a family reunion on Labor Day weekend.

Ending Remaining COVID Protocols

Governance Board members proposed and discussed the following:

- Hymnals/Bibles/Hangers – return to their proper places (Dan's DeZwaan's family will do this)
- Name tags – reorganize and return to Narthex area
- Re-open the Nursery in September (SPRC will take Amanda off furlough in mid- August when her role as Acting Director of Young Disciples Ministry expires.)
- Allow Adult and Bell Choirs to resume practicing/performing in person.
- Food Policy – Effective September 1, there will be no restrictions regarding food service.
 - ~A bagged meal will be served during the August food truck distribution.
 - ~Donuts (1-2 choices) may be served on separate plates/napkins in August during Java Time. Hand sanitizer will be placed by coffee serving stations.

Ashley Forton made the motion to approve the items listed above.

Shaun Skibinski seconded.

All in favor, none opposed. Motion approved.

(cont.)

A discussion was held regarding mask wearing while working with children.

Jeri Bigler made this motion: All adults working with children under 12 (including those in the nursery), as well as children ages 3-12 must wear a mask when they gather together. After a vaccine becomes available for children, vaccinated children and adults will no longer be required to wear a mask.

Ashley Forton seconded.

All in favor, none opposed. Motion approved.

Building Use

Beginning August 1, there will no longer be limits on the number of groups using the building on the same day, or sizes of groups allowed inside the building. We will continue to keep building use to a minimum for outside groups, however, until we have a building manager.

Some specific building use details were discussed, and Amy will communicate with the people involved.

Hourly charges for building usage will increase slightly. Beginning September 1, 2021 the hourly rates for members will increase by \$5 and hourly rates for non-members will increase by \$10 per room.

Shaun Skibinski made a motion to approve the new rates as indicated above.

Jeri Bigler seconded.

All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Artesian Market – this event was recently explored, discussed, and approved by Governance Board, but Georgetown Township denied the usage at our church due to zoning. The organizer will appeal and hopes to be able to hold the market here next summer.

Rainbow Doors – The Governance Board continues to support the display of the painted doors to relay our welcoming message to the community and distinguish our church from other area churches. However, since some verbal concerns have been expressed by members of the congregation, we, along with members from Open Door Committee will explore alternate and long-term ways of displaying our welcoming message to the community.

Kick-off – A Kick-Off event will be held on Sunday, September 12 to welcome everyone back to church and promote the fall classes and other opportunities available for participation. We will have one service for everyone followed by a simple lunch (hot dog/chips/beverage) and outside activities for kids.

Planning Committee: Ashley cochair, Amy cochair, Shaun

Food: Jeri, Dan

Kids' Activities: seeking volunteers

(cont.)

This committee will meet on Monday, August 9 at 7 pm to discuss details.

A letter or postcard will be mailed out to members and constituents in August inviting them to this event and announcing when service times will change back to 9:00 and 10:30.

Adjournment

Our meeting was closed with a prayer led by Sherri at 10:55 a.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 11 at 7:00 pm. (outside, weather permitting.)

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Schuiling
Acting Secretary