



GUM CHURCH

Our vision is to actively live the example of Jesus

Governance Board Meeting Minutes Saturday, August 10, 2019

In attendance: Kyle Anderson, Jeri Bigler, Craig Brodie, John Johnson, Lindsey Meredith, Amy Schuiling, *Sherri Swanson
*non-voting member

Absent: *Shari Bechler, Mike Freude, Bev Hain and Christine Webster

Kyle Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Devotions/Prayer Amy Schuiling read a devotional about "house building" and how God will not abandon us during the times problems and issues arise to test our patience and drain our purses. The devotion was followed by a prayer.

Ministry Fair

A Ministry Fair will be held after the morning church service on Sunday, August 25. Kelly Goward and Deb Burg are organizing this event to highlight the various committees and ministries of our church. Kyle and Amy will sit at the Governance Board table and Jeri will provide a treat to share.

Committee Reports

~Annual Conference: Cindi Harley reported that she enjoyed the experience of attending Annual Conference. Each day began with a moving worship service and the discussions and voting process seemed to run smoothly. This year marked the first year in which the whole state of Michigan came together as one conference.

~Church and Society: Christine Webster reported that Church and Society held their fall planning meeting on Sunday, August 4. Programming focus this year is social media, and Penny Avery has agreed to lead the sessions. Once the calendar dates have been decided for the year they will be publicized.

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Church and Society members are supporting all the Open Door Committee is doing and several people from this committee are attending the ODC meetings as well.

~Finance: Jenny Rosema reports that our Finance committee has been keeping an eye on monthly income. Up until June the income seemed to be steady and on track, but July's contributions seem to be declining. This could be the normal summer decline, but it will be tracked closely over the next few months. Financial planning for 2020 has begun and this committee is moving ahead faithfully.

~Missions: Jay Zylstra reported that Missions Team will be resuming their meeting schedule in August with a focus on fall planning and reviewing current activities. Ongoing activities consist of disbursements of dollars to those organizations designated in the 2019 budget, maintaining communication with Finance and planning for the Missions Sunday in November.

The Missions committee will continue evaluating the quality and type of food products on the Food Truck we host for the community food distribution. They will also continue to support Hand2Hand, God's Kitchen and Food Pantry, which are all running well thanks to our amazing volunteers.

Missions committee members will be meeting to develop the 2020 budget, recruit new members (including a chairperson) to the team, and begin transitioning to Engage mi (the mission engagement program for the Michigan Conference implementing the concept of Missions **With** along with Missions **To**.)

~SPRC: Chris Koch reported that SPRC members are completing the Clergy Evaluation forms in preparation for the annual meeting with our District Superintendent on September 8th. They are also preparing for our Fall Church Conference here at GUM.

~Trustees: Todd Potter reported that the parking lot coating and repair was completed the week of July 22. Trustees is also working on collecting quotes to repair some of the exterior stucco walls.

Staff Reports:

~Choir: Lynette Cole reports that the choir is currently on summer hiatus, but work is beginning to prepare for their start date in September. Rehearsals will begin the end of August.

This spring the choir went out to sing for the residents of Waterford Place in Hudsonville. They always enjoy singing with and for those who are unable to attend worship.

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Lynette attended a choral conducting workshop in July at the University of Toledo. She enjoyed this worthwhile experience, and found it both affirming of strengths and enlightening as to the things she can improve upon. Lynette used money that had been gifted to the choir to use at her discretion. She would love to have continuing opportunities in the future and hopes that someday our budget will allow for that. She feels the inspiration and ideas that come from quality events like this are priceless. As always, the support of our congregation is very much appreciated.

~Communications: Heather Blaszczyk reports that she has decided to no longer move forward with the Communications Team. Her goal was to make sure we were properly communicating with our congregation and community, and to get the new website up and running. She feels the purpose of this team has been completed. The website is successful and we are up 63% YTD on unique visitors and up 36% YTD on page views. We have had 95 views alone on our GUM Team page since posting the Open Door Committee videos. The most popular content seems to be sermons, worship times and GUM Teams. The Communications Team and Heather updated a survey used in the past about communication sources and outreach within the church, which will be distributed some time this winter.

~Hospitality: The hospitality team has been doing great. Heather Blaszczyk currently has 43 volunteers on board, along with others who checked 'interested' on the forms distributed when directory pictures were taken, or who have personally expressed an interest in volunteering directly to her. Her goal is to get all volunteers into the schedule rotation starting in the fall.

Most Sundays we currently average two guests at our services. During the summer there were a few weeks when no guests were present, but there were also some weeks we had six or more. With kick-off Sunday approaching, Heather hopes we double that number, and she has big plans to hopefully draw new guests and families to GUM.

We had 16 guests become members in the last year!

~Music and Worship: Alex Barringer reports that the summer has been a bit slower for the Music and Worship Departments. The Worship Design Team put up the cloth and candles in the sanctuary for Pentecost and will meet soon to decide on a look for our fall kick-off as well as brainstorm new ideas to incorporate into worship. Just this past week, we received our handbells back, fully refurbished and they are looking great! There are several new volunteers for this group, and we are looking forward to getting started again in September. The Worship Band has lost several key volunteers, due to various reasons, and is hard at work looking for people to replace them. We are also looking forward to Youth Music Sunday on August 18 and are hard at work preparing for that!

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~Nursery: Amanda Hoskins reports that the first three-year-old transition date was implemented during the past few months, and we said goodbye to a few nursery families. The next transition date is set for Kick-Off Sunday. As some children are moving on to Sunday School we are also welcoming new faces and families into the nursery. With the Ministry Fair coming up, Amanda hopes to meet more families and get more people involved in the nursery. The last toy washing was held in June and was a success thanks to the help of four volunteers.

~Office: Lisa Ernst reports that she had the opportunity recently to compile and update membership information collected during the photo directory shoot. Also collected was information about congregant's interests in serving various areas of the church. This information was passed along to leaders for use in their ministry area. It is still a generally a tense time for GUMChurch with questions looming about our direction and stance on the decision of adopting the Traditional plan at the General Conference. The staff is taking this in stride and, thus far, rising to the challenge.

~Young Disciples Ministry: Sara Zallar and Bailey Williams report that the Young Disciples Ministry summer started with a bang during Vacation Bible School 2019: Who Is My Neighbor! We hosted over 60 children and volunteers throughout the week and collected over \$150 cash, \$60 in gift cards and over 100 containers of cake-making supplies for our offering (a birthday celebration surprise for kids who may not otherwise have one), put on by our very own Pamerleau family. We have focused our intentions in the garden this summer to be more of a children's ministry project. As such we have had 2-6 children each Sunday (weather-permitting) for Garden Club: weeding, watering, harvesting, weighing, packing food from the garden. So far we have almost 20 pounds of produce!

Family camp was a lot of fun with shaving cream fights, tie dye, group games and activities, hammocking and a Youth camp-out on the beach where we made our own labyrinths and spent some time self-reflecting in addition to playing flashlight tag and star gazing. We are looking forward to implementing a new system of parent involvement for Sunday school leadership this year and are hopeful that it may provide an opportunity for more age-appropriate offerings and spread the load of the work to be done.

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Liaison Reports

Intentional Faith Development Committee is preparing a booklet listing the various opportunities for involvement and spiritual development at GUM.

We discussed the success of Family Camp and appreciation for the planning and organizing that went into this week, as well as the opportunity for families to connect and build relationships with each other.

Children's Music Ministry - We are grateful for the many opportunities available for our children.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Sherri reported on several things she celebrates in the life of our church. Our Unity Sunday service on May 19 was very joyful as we confirmed several teenagers, recognized graduates, and were treated to wonderful music. Four more adult members were received on Pentecost Sunday, June 9. She has also enjoyed preaching the summer series about the twelve disciples and having the opportunity to visit with church members in the gym after worship, which she cannot do when there are two services.

Pastor Sherri's schedule has not lightened up over the summer. Even with fewer meetings she has been working as much as ever. There are also some concerns weighing heavily on her, including our church finances. Our stewardship campaign will be focused on "Extravagant Generosity" and will run throughout the month of October.

Our worship attendance average year-to-date is 238 (it was 254 for the year 2018); our summer average has been only 188 (last summer's average was 220, which was most likely higher due to Jennie's departure and Sherri's arrival).

Pastor Sherri very much enjoyed attending each evening of our Vacation Bible School, and she and her husband were able to join us for two days of our GUM Church Family Camp. They will also both be attending two days of a Clergy Family Camp next week at Lake Louise, where they have been asked to preach during one of the chapel services. They will be spending Labor Day weekend in Youngstown, Ohio for a family reunion.

Pastor Sherri reports that she was encouraged by the results of our Michigan Annual Conference. Votes on legislation were consistently around 70% favoring full inclusion. Further, she was honored to be elected as part of the next General Conference delegation, along with her husband. Since she was elected further down on the ballot, she is only planning to attend Jurisdictional Conference.

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The delegation has already held a first meeting and has scheduled 7 more days of meetings between now and next May (5 of these in Lansing and 2 in Chicago). This is going to add to her time away from the congregation, on top of ongoing commitments with the Board of Ordained Ministry (12 days of meetings between now and May) and Continuing Education (at least 2 more days of meetings). This time away is also a concern to her. Being the pastor of GUM Church is a big responsibility that takes plenty of time all by itself. The good news is that she will be done with these other connectional responsibilities next summer. So, there is a light at the end of the tunnel, but it will be an exceptionally busy year ahead.

Our staff went on a half-day retreat last week to the Dominican Center where they enjoyed a workshop on the Enneagram. Before summer is over, Pastor Sherri will have completed all staff evaluations as well as the Church Conference forms.

Please save these dates:

Church Conference – Sunday, September 29, 2:00 p.m., at GUM

District Conference (including free training workshops) – Saturday, October 12, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., at Lake Harbor UMC in Muskegon

Pastor Sherri recently celebrated her one-year anniversary at GUM Church. She says it has been a very full and challenging year for her. She feels blessed to be here and is looking forward to “year two.”

Governance Board Vice Chair/2020 Chair

Amy Schuiling has agreed to assume the Vice Chair position for the remainder of 2019 and Chairperson role in 2020. Kyle Anderson will remain on the committee for 2020.

Visioning Survey

A draft of the Visioning Survey was distributed for committee members to review and discuss. The survey will be distributed via email for Kick Off Sunday (September 8) and responses will be collected through Sunday, September 15. Paper copies will also be available at church. Results will be compiled and shared at Church Conference.

Church Conference

Lyn DeMoss will be facilitating and the conference will be held at GUM at 2:00 on September 29.

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Memorial Garden

The committee working to maintain the Memorial Garden has recently created a brochure and by-laws to help clarify the process and purpose of the garden. Pastor Sherri, Kyle and Amy will meet with representatives from this committee, along with Trustees, to clarify some wording in the bylaws and brochure.

Trustees is the committee to officially oversee and approve the final proposed bylaws and any decisions made regarding the grounds of our church.

Adjournment

Kyle closed our meeting with a devotion and prayer.

Next meeting: November 23 at 9 am. (This is a change from the previously scheduled November 16 meeting)

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Schuiling