



GUM CHURCH

Our vision is to actively live the example of Jesus

Governance Board Meeting Minutes Thursday, September 3, 2020

Present: Kyle Anderson, Craig Brodie, Michael Freude, John Johnson, Amy Schuiling, *Sherri Swanson, Christine Webster

Absent: Jeri Bigler, *Carol DeWeerd, Sue Kremkow

*non-voting member

This was a special meeting called to discuss and make decisions on several topics that we didn't feel could wait until the next regularly scheduled meeting. Due to social distancing restrictions, this meeting was held in the church parking lot.

Amy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and shared a devotional prayer.

Black Lives Matter Signs

The Governance Board recently received a letter from a long time GUMC member, expressing her concern regarding the two Black Lives Matter signs displayed near our electronic church sign. We are aware there are many opinions regarding this cause and feel the true BLM goals have been misinterpreted and politicalized. Since our newly painted rainbow doors now include black and brown stripes, we agreed that our church's intent and values continue to be visibly displayed through those. We recommend Church and Society organize a deeper discussion of the BLM purpose once in-person gathering is allowed.

A motion was made by John to *remove the Black Lives Matter signs at this time* noting that our supportive intent is displayed with other signage.

Amy seconded the motion.

All in favor, none opposed, motion passed.

***Governance Board Committee Minutes
September 3, 2020***

Proposed Banners

A group of charter members had recently presented a proposed set of Welcome Banners, which were to be created and displayed next year beginning at General Conference. One of the members was informed by Georgetown Township officials that banner displays on area buildings are not permitted. Committees within our church will continue to find a more permanent way to display our welcome statement.

Request for Use of Parking

We have received a request from a Jenison High School student to use our parking lot as a gathering place for the next Black Lives Matter March on September 19. Even though the organizers indicate that masks will be required and social distancing will be in place to the best of their ability, the Board feels that there is too much unknown about how many people may attend, and how long they will be gathering. We are strictly following the Safe Start Plan by not allowing our own congregation to meet in large numbers, and are concerned that if this event is allowed, we would not have control over any situation that may arise. Amy will send an email to the organizer confirming the Board's decision. We will also let him know that we support this cause (several members attended the last march), and will publicize the details of this next event in our newsletter.

A motion was made by Christine to *not approve the use of our parking lot as a public gathering location for the Black Lives Matter March on September 19.*

Dan seconded the motion.

All in favor, none opposed, motion passed.

Outside Song/Communion/Prayer Event

There has been recent discussion of holding a Sunday evening event to allow members of our congregation to gather safely outside. The Board agrees there is a strong desire for people in our congregation to meet in person, and we discussed how to do this safely. These are our recommendations:

- Offer two duplicate events on September 20, with a rain date of September 27. Suggested times were 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm, but Alex and Sherri will work out the exact times.
- Attendees will need to RSVP for one of the scheduled times.
- Masks will be required, since singing will be allowed.
- We will ask that people attending bring their own chairs, but volunteers will bring out folding chairs, if needed.

***Governance Board Committee Minutes
September 3, 2020***

- All attendees will be signed in for contact tracking purposes as they drive into the parking lot.
- Prepackaged communion elements and song sheets (packaged together in baggies) will be distributed during parking lot check-in.
- The building will NOT be open for bathroom usage.

Sherri will give a brief introduction of the event during our online worship service on September 13. Heather will publish a newsletter article with details and information on how to RSVP in her publication on September 15. RSVPs can be made from our website or by calling the church office.

A motion was made by John *to allow two outside communion and song gatherings on September 20 (or 27).*

Michael seconded the motion, and suggested the title “Song and Spirit”
All in favor, none opposed, motion passed.

Other Items

It was mentioned recently that there appears to be a growing divide between generations in our church, possibly due to not being able to worship in person. Pastor Sherri mentioned that we need to give ongoing attention to this issue and try and think of creative ways we can help bridge the generations.

Adjournment

Michael closed our meeting with prayer.

Next meeting: September 26 at 9 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Schuiling