

The following are highlights from the 01/12/2026 Governing Board meeting:

- Call to order – Chuck
- Devotions – Chuck

Members Attending:

Dave Allen, Paul Campbell, Jonathan Carroll-Nellenback (Vice Chair), Erica Friedman, Chuck Hanrahan (Chair), Christy Leshar (Secretary), Tim Mahan (Treasurer), Peter Owh, Dawn Riedy, Rev. Dr. Michelle Bogue-Trost (Sr. Minister), Deb Bullock-Smith (Church Administrator)

Absent:

None

Guests:

Beth Wilkens (SPRC Chair)

1. Reviewed & Approved Consent Agenda

Review/Approval of Outreach Committee Minutes of Oct 18, 2025

Review/Approval of Outreach Committee Minutes of Dec 17, 2025

Review/Approval of Finance Committee Minutes of Dec 18, 2025

Review/Approval of Property Stewardship Committee Minutes of Dec 10, 2025

2. Annual Legal Requirements – Chuck

a) Omnibus Signature Authority Resolution

Included as an attachment for Board to review prior to meeting. Only question from Dawn was regarding, if a Board member signs a contract and the church is sued, is there protection for the officers? Chuck and Paul noted there is insurance that covers Board members. Paul will confirm it covers members even after their term on the Board ends, and Beth recommends when signing contracts on behalf of the church that we sign, “Asbury First UMC by [name]” so it is clear we are signing on the church’s behalf.

b) Standing Resolution for Endowment Distribution

Included as an attachment for the Board to review prior to meeting. No questions posed on this item.

c) Approval of Officers

Chuck will remain Chair, Dawn will remain Treasurer, Christy will remain Secretary, and we need a new Vice Chair as Frances has stepped back. Jonathan volunteered to fill the role of Vice Chair.

Motion:	Motion to adopt the Omnibus Signature Authority Resolution, the Standing Resolution for Endowment Distribution, and approve the Governing Board officers for calendar year 2026.		
Moved by:	Peter	Seconded by:	Tim
Outcome:	Approved by vote of the Governing Board		

3. Schedules and Forms – Chuck & Christy

a) **Conflict of Interest Forms**

All signatures were gathered from all Board members (old and new) for 2026. Signed Conflict of Interest copies will be scanned and housed in the Governing Board Google Drive, 2026 Meeting Materials and Other Documents folder.

b) **Board Covenant**

Chuck covered the importance of adhering to the Board Confidentiality Covenant and reviewed it with the Board.

c) **Update Contact Info**

Christy shared the link to our Board Google sheet with contact info and asked members to ensure names, committees, and contact information is current.

d) **Devotional Schedule**

Christy noted that in the Contact Info Google sheet, the devotional schedule is in the last column. Christy will remind folks when their month is coming.

e) **Head Shots and Bios**

New members need to submit bios and headshots to David Stith via email by end of January so the Governing Board member area of the website remains up to date.

f) **Welcome Desk**

Christy will share new Board member emails with Karen Barner so she can include them when Karen sends the new signup sheet for welcome desk volunteers.

g) **Community Dinner Sponsorship**

The Board agreed that we will sponsor the Community Dinner on Feb 4. Those who can volunteer that night will email Chuck to get organized for the evening.

h) **Updating All Committee Pages on Website**

Chuck set expectations that all committees will keep their areas on the website current this year with postings on meeting minutes or summaries. If any committees have out-of-date information, they will be making an update in the coming weeks.

***** At this point, the Governing Board entered Executive Session***

***** At this point, the Governing Board exited Executive Session***

4. 2026 Budget Discussion and Vote – Dawn

Updated copies of the 2026 General Budget and COC Budget were shared prior to the meeting. Chuck noted that if anyone has specific questions to connect with Dawn. Dawn provided broad strokes of the pledge drive outcome and financial standings as we close 2025 and start 2026:

- At the end of November, we were at 96% revenue received and on target for expenses in the planned budget.
- We then saw a tremendous response in December with year-end total 2025 giving 7% above budget and expenses 2% below budget.
- Looked back at what our financial picture would have looked like if we had not cut expenses and had Second Mile Giving, and we would have ended with an approximately \$153k deficit (Expenses > Revenue).

- We hit 105% of General pledge completion in 2025 (including a single unexpected \$50k gift).
- Cash balance coming into 2026 is \$178k, of which \$132k is pre-paid pledges. A year ago we were -\$156k coming into 2025.
- Our structural deficit is not solved, but we have a much better foundation to move forward.
- COC ended with an \$81k positive Revenue/Expenses variance.

Approval:	The Governing Board approves the 2026 General Budget and 2026 COC Budget for Asbury First UMC.
Outcome:	Unanimous approval by the Governing Board

5. Townhall Preparation and Future Dates – Chuck

Next Townhall is on February 1st following the 11 AM service. All Board members should make every effort to attend in person, and we will all sit together, up front. We'll plan to cover the pledge outcome, budget for 2026, accept the nominations report, and elect the Governing Board members who weren't on the ballot in December. Chuck will work with Deb and Michelle for future dates for the other two Townhall meetings for 2026 so they can get on the church calendar.

6. Three Big Questions for 2026 – Chuck & Michelle

For the questions on financial sustainability and the formation of a capital campaign, we'll pick those questions up in a later meeting and Dawn and Tim will each own one of those and they can determine who and how to divide those up.

Michelle is driving the third big question of 2026, that of Asbury's third century, and what does it look like in the face of our changing world. Michelle shared a handout with how we, as a Board, will work through this together this year. We will follow a learning and discernment arc leveraging two leadership frameworks to ground our work: Adaptive Leadership and Family Systems Theory for Congregations. She has divided the arc into 10 sections aligned to 10 of our Board meeting months where we will use some of our meeting time to work through resources, dialog together, seeking to strengthen the Board's shared judgment, leadership posture, and capacity to make wise decisions over time.

Adjourned at: 7:35 PM (with decision for future meetings to commence at 5:30 vs 5:00)

Respectfully Submitted,
Christy Leshner

Next Town Hall (after 11 AM service, Sanctuary)	February 1, 2026
Next GB Meeting (5:30 PM, Red Room)	February 9, 2026