

GOVERNANCE IN ACTION

Monthly Executive Summary | Feb. 2023

The following are highlights from the 02/13/2023 Governance Board (GB) meeting:

AGENDA

- **Call to order/devotional — Mr. Jordan**
 - Members attending included Ike Jordan (Vice-President), Angie Burch (Treasurer), Cory Tylenda (Secretary), Wendy Featherstone, Jim Quinn, Beth Wilkens, and Rev. Dr. Stephen Cady, Sr. (Minister). David Strong, Church Administrator, also attended. Wendy Featherstone and Jim Quinn were welcomed to the Governing Board!
- **Review/Approve Consent Agenda — All**
 1. Jan. 2023 Gov. Board Meeting Highlights — Mr. Tylenda
 2. Senior Minister's Report — Rev. Dr. Cady
 3. Outreach Committee Update—Mr. Jordan
 4. Property Stewardship Committee Capital Improvement Plan—Mr. Hanrahan

Discussion:

- **Rev. Dr. Cady** provided a preliminary update on the response to the inclusive wedding ceremonies survey. As of February 13th, we have received 133 digital responses and around 100 responses via postal mail. The deadline for responses has not yet passed and additional surveys are being returned daily. To date responses are overwhelmingly positive. A final report as to responses will be made at the next meeting, when the Board will consider a formal motion, communication to the congregation as to survey results, and possible start date. In the meantime, Rev. Dr. Cady spoke with Bishop Burgos and he is supportive.
- **Mrs. Wilkens** noted the Board Policy Book indicates the Chair won't serve in that role for more than two years. It could often be the case that at the end of their two years, they leave the Board along with their institutional knowledge at the end of their term. She suggested consideration of a non-voting, ex officio one-year role for Ex-Chairs who leave the Board immediately at the end of their term. She also noted that the rotation of Board terms can be disrupted when a member leaves mid-term. For example, four of the seven board members will rotate off in 2024. Although the current policy is generally sound, Board members will give further thought to the issues and Mrs. Wilkens will propose a formal amendment at the March 2023 meeting.
- **Mr. Tylenda** noted that meeting minutes by all the church committees do not necessarily have all the information for later reference. Additionally, the format and detail vary widely because minutes are often taken by different members at each meeting. The Board discussed the level of detail that should be included, taking into account sensitive issues such as personnel, legal matters and confidential issues. Ms. Wilkens, Mr. Strong, and Mr. Tylenda will work on a template. The Board will consider whether executive summaries for the website would provide the most meaningful information for the congregation. After further discussion at the next meeting, Ms. Wilkens will communicate with all Committee Chairs.

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- The Board discussed the difficulty of getting budget numbers finalized in time for advance communication prior to the full Church conference in January, particularly given the need to close out the prior year first. Most churches do their charge conferences only to the extent required by Book of Discipline (vote on nominations report, candidates for ministry, and receipt of bequests). We at Asbury First to do a full church conference including all members, and have opted to have the budget approved by the conference. Timing probably has to stay in January, including for approval of nominations. We will continue to work on ways to communicate budget as soon as practical.
- The Board approved a change to Jackie Nelson's role, requested by her given her additional personal obligations. She will move from being a member of regular staff to a role as Preaching Associate, and under the new classification will be paid an honorarium for her time.
- Board members will complete the annual Conflict-of-Interest and Board Covenant statement.