

The following are highlights from the 02/10/2025 Governing Board meeting:

- **Call to order – Chuck**
- **Devotional – Frances**

Members Attending:

Frances Bryniarski (Vice Chair), Jonathan Carroll-Nellenback, Wendy Featherstone, Chuck Hanrahan (Chair), Christy Leshner (Secretary), Tim Mahan (Treasurer), Peter Owah, Rev. Dr. Michelle Bogue-Trost (Sr. Minister), David Strong (Church Administrator)

Absent:

None

Guests:

Christina Kirivong (2024 Dream Team report)

Reviewed / Approved Consent Agenda – Chuck

- Review/Approval of Governing Board Minutes of January 13, 2025
- Review/Approval of PPRC Meeting Minutes of February 3, 2025 *Confidential*
- Review/Approval of Finance Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2025
- Review/Approval of Investment Committee Charter of November 18, 2024
- Review/Approval of Safety Management Team Minutes of January 23, 2025
- Review/Approval of Sr Minister's Report of February 2025

Columbarium: Amending the Not-to-Exceed Number – Chuck

The premise of the columbarium is that it is self-funding. Though we don't yet have the full, final amount we do have funds to get started. Various sources agree that once the project has started more niches will be purchased. We did get authorization from congregation initially, the amendment is in spirit of motion they approved, so Chuck advises the GB has authority to vote on the amendment.

Recommendation to approve:

- Authorize spending not-to-exceed \$430,000 for the Columbarium Phase 1 (136 niches).
- Reconfirm authorization to borrow funds to complete construction if not fully funded by niche purchases at the time of completion of the project.

Approved by board vote

Finance Fund Transfer – Tim

A fund transfer in the Finance Committee Minutes of January 27, 2025 is before the GB for approval. Tim noted that the transfer was very much in the spirit of the conversations / agreements made in the Spring of 2024 at a prior Governing Board meeting, and is confident in the motion. From the Finance Minutes noted:

“Addressing the negative \$24,911 balance in the COC Undesignated Fund, Dawn Riedy and Tim Mahan discussed that the Governing Board, in the Spring of 2024, to address concerns about the unintended effect of allocating expenses between Funds 1 and 2, agreed that if the Fund 2 Undesignated Fund suffered a deficit in 2024, a transfer from Fund 1 would eliminate that deficit. Accordingly, Tim will be presenting a resolution to the Governing Board at its February meeting authorizing John Ormsbee to make a transfer from 2024 year-end Fund 1 equity to Fund 2 equity in the amount of \$24,911.”

Governing Board resolved that John Ormsbee is authorized to make a fund transfer from 2024 year-end Fund 1 equity to Fund 2 equity in the amount of \$24,911.

Investment Committee Motion – Peter

The Investment Committee reviewed historical policies and recommended designating remaining Petherbridge and Fraser funds to the endowment, reaffirming past practices for bequests. Concerns were raised about limiting budget flexibility, the need for broader congregational education, and whether the Governing Board should revisit policies on undesignated gifts. Some members suggested tabling the motion, creating a task force for sustainable budgeting, and improving planned giving practices.

Motion tabled.

Update from Dream Team – Pastor Michelle & Christina Kirivong

The team reviewed the 2024 Dream Team Report, which introduces a strategic framework to the landscape at Asbury First built on value statements and guiding questions, emphasizing adaptability over rigid strategic plans. Priorities from the 2017 and 2024 dreamscapes guide ministries and committees, with ownership placed on committees to set goals and align work, while the Governing Board affirms these priorities as the foundation for church efforts moving forward.

Brainstorm 2025 Three Big Questions – Chuck + All

The discussion focused in on three key questions:

1. Progress toward a sustainable financial model.
2. Accountability in using the Dream Team Strategic Framework to guide committees.
3. How outreach ministries—particularly the COC—are addressing community needs in Rochester and fulfilling their mission.

March 2, 2025 Town Hall Prep – Chuck

We will prioritize a financial update followed by the Dream Team update. Key points included addressing the 2025 budget gap and highlighting financial sustainability challenges. Planned giving and endowment transparency will be covered in the May town hall, with recommendations needed by mid-year to act on budget concerns.

Proposed agenda, presenters, and timings:

- Financial Update - Tim (10 mins, +5 for questions)
 - State of Campus - Chuck (5 mins)
 - Dream Team Report - team + Pastor Michelle (30 mins, +10 for questions)
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New Business – All

- Pastor Michelle confirmed that while the UMC is not pursuing legal action over sanctuary church status, the New York State Council of Churches is, and AFUMC will participate anonymously.
 - The Board agreed to schedule a virtual meeting to review campus security issues, with Christy arranging a poll for a date during the week of February 24 or later.
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Closing / Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at: 6:37 PM
 - Town Hall: March 2, 2025 (after 11 AM service)
 - Interim GB Meeting: March 4, 2025 (5 PM, Zoom only)
 - GB Meeting: March 10, 2025 (Red Room)
 - Church Conference: [Date not specified]
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Respectfully submitted,
Christy Leshner