

The following are highlights from the 03/09/2026 Governing Board meeting:

- **Call to order – Chuck**
- **Devotions – Paul**

Members Attending:

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

Absent:

None

Guests:

Rev. Pat Dupont, Diana Carter

1. Received & Approved Consent Agenda

Receipt of Property Stewardship Committee Minutes of Jan 7, 2026
Receipt of Property Stewardship Committee Minutes of Feb 4, 2026
Receipt of Social Concerns Committee Minutes of Feb 16, 2026
Receipt of Finance Committee Minutes of Jan 25, 2026
Receipt of Finance Update of March 2026
Receipt of SPRC Minutes of Feb 2, 2026 - Confidential
Receipt of SPRC Minutes of Feb 16, 2026 - Confidential
Receipt of Outreach Minutes of Feb 17, 2026
Receipt of Senior Minister's Report of March 2026

2. Neighbors Sleeping on Porches – Discussion

The topic opened with thanks to Pat and Diana for joining, as this issue intersects Safety Team, Community Outreach, and Property Stewardship work. The Governing Board acknowledged receipt of the Whites' letter and noted that while signed by only two members, it likely reflects a broader set of concerns in the congregation. The letter reflects potential misunderstandings and the potential belief that nothing is being done in the absence of information and updates. The Board discussed an immediate need for better communication and transparency about actions taken, to-date, and going forward on this topic.

Background: Safety concerns have been raised over the past 1.5–2 years. Upon initial issue being surfaced, the Safety Team consulted with the church's attorneys and insurance carriers, who stated the church is liable for incidents occurring anywhere on campus (inside or outside). The work on this issue has been ongoing, multi-faceted, complex, and progress has been slow. An ad-hoc Task Force (with representation from Outreach, Property Stewardship, Safety, staff, local social work) was formed that reports into the Safety Team, and that team reports to the Property Stewardship committee.

Steps Previously Taken:

- Signage (“no overnight sleeping,” later changed to “no trespassing”).
- Direct conversations with neighbors, offers of shelter rides (people returned next day).
- Collaboration with Helio Health and government outreach teams.
- Pop up shelter nights in the COC (3 successful nights).
- Attempted deterrence methods (e.g., chanting music played) rejected as inhumane.
- Police intervention: they will issue tickets but cannot arrest for trespassing; individuals return quickly.

The Board, Pat, and Diana explored why individuals stay on our porches:

- Shelters are unsafe (roaches, violence), triggering, or restrict substance use.
- Campus is safe, quiet, has services (food, clothing, medical, community).

So, the problem persists: neighbors regularly sleep on porch areas (1050 and 1010). The central philosophical divide emerged and continued throughout the discussion, there is a tension between hospitality and safety.

Hospitality Perspective

- Emphasizes Christian obligation (“Who is my neighbor?” Good Samaritan passage).
- Acknowledges neighbors sleeping on porches are vulnerable, unsafe elsewhere, and often prefer open-air spaces over shelters (which can be dangerous, crowded, or triggering).
- Concern that harsh measures (e.g., police enforcement or deterrence like music) conflict with Christian values.

Safety / Risk Perspective

- Staff, volunteers, renters, parents of daycare children, and congregants have experienced fear or unsafe conditions (e.g., staff safety, tenant concerns, trash/waste cleanup).
- Legal and insurance liability is significant.
- Allowing neighbors to reside overnight was not part of the Outreach Center mission; lack of clear limits may unintentionally “permit” and therefore “promote” ongoing camping.

Approaches Debated

The Board, Pat, and Diana discussed various approaches to the issue, everything from reducing or eliminating overnight sleeping (adding security shifts to enforce), to containment approaches (expecting better stewardship from neighbors), to expanding services of the Outreach Center (include sheltering options), to learning from what other service-oriented churches locally and further afield are doing to address similar issues were covered. Pastor Michelle cautioned the Board of overstepping into the realm of the Task Force’s work.

Recommendations from the Discussion

1. The Task Force must continue its work, and Pat noted that the Task Force work is slow because task-force members already have full workloads. He recommended a dedicated convener/leader to drive meetings, follow-ups, and project management. The Board has a recommendation about who that could be, and Dave will reach out.
2. The congregation needs communication that acknowledges the concerns, describes what has been done, and explains the complexity and competing values of the issue (hospitality vs. safety).
3. The Governing Board will have representation and participate in the Task Force.

3. Sprinkler Update – Chuck

An update on the February 9 sprinkler malfunction, which appears to have been caused by a frozen pipe in the ceiling that burst as it thawed, breaking the sprinkler head and releasing water. Cleanup was completed promptly and, while costly, the damage was not significant enough to justify an insurance claim.

Dawn extended thanks to the leadership team (Pastor Michelle, Deb, Chuck, and Johnny) for their swift coordination, clear communication with the congregation, and hands-on work managing the crisis that evening!

4. Three Big Questions, Third Century Work – Pastor Michelle

Pastor Michelle led the rest of the February Third Century Work discussion with the Governing Board (which was interrupted by the sprinkler malfunction). Excerpts from the following books were used for this discussion:

- Tod Bolsinger, *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory*, InterVarsity Press, 2015.
- Edwin H. Friedman, *A Failure of Nerve: Leadership in the Age of the Quick Fix*, Church Publishing, 1999.
- Tod Bolsinger, *Tempered Resilience: How Leaders Are Formed in the Crucible of Change*, InterVarsity Press, 2022.
- Ronald A. Heifetz, Alexander Grashow, and Marty Linsky, *The Practice of Adaptive Leadership*, Harvard Business Press, 2009.
- Edwin H. Friedman, *Generation to Generation: Family Process in Church and Synagogue*, Guilford Press, 1985.

5. Timing of Next Town Hall – Chuck

Decision was made to hold the next town hall before the summer season sets in. Looking to confirm May 17. The Board agreed to hold the date, and Pastor Michelle and Deb will confirm on the church calendar and then publish the date.

****The Governing Board entered Executive Session**

****The Governing Board exited Executive Session**

6. New Business – All

None.

Adjourned at 7:41 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Christy Leshner

Next GB Meeting (5:30 PM, Red Room)	April 13, 2026
Next Town Hall (after 11 AM service, Sanctuary)	May 17, 2026