

The following are highlights from the 03/10/2025 Governing Board meeting:

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

Members Attending:

Jonathan Carroll-Nellenback, Wendy Featherstone, Chuck Hanrahan (Chair), Christy Leshner (Secretary), Tim Mahan (Treasurer), Peter Ow, Dawn Riedy

Absent:

Frances Bryniarski (Vice Chair), Rev. Dr. Michelle Bogue-Trost (Sr. Minister), David Strong (Church Administrator)

Guests:

None

Reviewed / Approved Consent Agenda

- Review/Approval of Governing Board Minutes of Feb 10, 2025
- Review/Approval of PPRC Meeting Minutes of Mar 3, 2025 *Confidential*
- Review/Approval of Finance Meeting Minutes of Jan 27, 2025
- Review/Approval of Property Stewardship Committee Meeting minutes of Dec 11, 2024
- Review/Approval of Property Stewardship Committee Meeting minutes of Feb 12, 2024
- Review/Approval of Safety Management Team Minutes of Feb 27, 2025
- Review/Approval of Sr Minister's Report of Mar 2025

Governing Board Motions – Chuck

The Board agreed to adopt the three items in one motion:

1. Temporarily suspend GB Policy on number of Board Members.
2. Agree to amend the GB Policy this year to reflect this change.
3. Elect Dawn Riedy as Treasurer.

Motion: To temporarily suspend the Governing Board Policy on the number of board members, amend the Policy Book this year to reflect this change, and elect Dawn as Treasurer

Outcome: Approved by Board vote.

Vision for Finance Committee – Dawn

Chuck shared that he heard positive feedback on the March Town Hall, particularly the Finance update. Dawn shared the following update from the Finance Committee as the vision for 2025 and beyond:

Priorities

- 2023 and 2024 financial audits
- Careful monitoring of 2025 income and expenses; understandable reports; regular GB updates
- Updated Finance Committee membership and renewed engagement
- Ongoing engagement of the congregation – education, transparency, and building trust (Finance@asburyfirst.org has been reactivated)
- Actively participating in the development of a sustainable financial plan for Asbury First
- Presenting a balanced budget for 2026

Work in progress

- Committee charter and membership updates (to include representatives from the Giving Legacy Giving teams, Investment, PPRC, Outreach, and Property Stewardship Committees)
- Committee reviewing United Methodist Guidelines - Finance
- Establishing an Audit Team; 2023 and 2024 audits are a high priority
- Beginning work on an inventory and depreciation schedule for church's fixed assets
- Beginning 2018-2024 finances look-back to understand income and spending patterns

Glimpse at finances through February

- YTD unrestricted income (general church operations) is \$36,541 higher than same period last year (drivers are a \$16K increase in contribution income and \$16K from the two bequests)
- YTD donor-restricted income (COC operations) has already reached 45% of total budgeted 2025 income goal of \$459,930 (drivers are COC pledges, \$4.5K fundraiser and \$25K grant)
- Facilities and custodial expenses continue to be challenging

Next update

- Q1 Income & Expenses (with year over year comparison to 2024)
- High level gap analysis- what is required to reach a balanced budget

Discussion of Charge / Charter to Sustainability Task Force – Tim

The Board discussed the formation and charge for the Financial Sustainability Task Force – both short- and long-term strategies for achieving a sustainable church budget, including pledge and fund drives, a potential capital campaign, ministry and property reviews, and creative uses of resources. Key concerns included educating the congregation about financial needs, avoiding cuts that reduce giving, exploring development roles, and addressing negative equity and receivables. While long-term planning will take time, there is an urgent need for short-term actions to balance the 2025 budget.

Motion: To establish a Financial Sustainability Task Force to address the work of creating a sustainable budget for 2025 and beyond.

Outcome: Approved by Board vote.

Review of 2025 Big Three Questions – Chuck

A confirmation of the Big Three Questions for 2025 as identified in the February 10, 2025 Governing Board meeting:

1. What progress is the church making toward a sustainable financial model?
2. How are we helping our committees be accountable to the Dreamscape?
3. How effectively are our outreach committees (particularly the COC) meeting the needs of Rochester?

The Board explored how outreach fits within the church's priorities, noting that while the Community Outreach Center (COC) addresses acts of mercy, broader justice initiatives fall under the Social Concerns Committee. Discussion centered around ensuring the COC remains relevant and measurable, reframing outreach to encompass mercy and justice ministries locally and beyond. Ownership of guiding questions was assigned: Tim for financial sustainability, committee liaisons for ministry accountability, and Jonathan (with Pastor Michelle) for social justice inputs, aligning efforts with the Dream Team framework and new priorities.

Request to Publish GB Meeting Times and Minutes – Chuck

The Board discussed making Governing Board meeting minutes public to improve transparency. While there was agreement on publishing summaries and noting confidential items in closed sessions, concerns were raised about sharing unformed ideas. Suggestions included posting summaries for all committees, listing attendees, motions, and votes in public notes, and maintaining a separate idea log for brainstorming. They also emphasized clear caveats for open discussions and ensuring meetings are accessible to congregants.

Plan for April meeting – Chuck

With the Easter holiday, the Board discussed finding an alternative date for the April meeting, or skipping the month. Even though there was some urgency around getting the Financial Sustainability Task Force moving, its work is not dependent on the GB meeting. A decision was made to skip the April meeting and conduct an email vote for an Investment Committee motion.

New Business – All

None.

Closing / Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at: 6:33 PM
 - GB Meeting: May 12, 2025 at 5 PM (Red Room)
 - Church Conference: June 22, 2025 after 11 AM service (Sanctuary, Live Stream)
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Respectfully submitted,
Christy Leshner