

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY MARCH 2022

The following are highlights from the 3/14/2022 Governance Board (GB) meeting:

Planning Scheduling for meeting: Stephen Cady requested two Governing Board members to attend the mediation with him. He asked who could attend for the meeting on March 24th, 2022. Angie Burch and Valerie Benjamin have agreed to attend with Stephen Cady.

- Review/Approve Consent Agenda — All
- 1. January GB Meeting Minutes — Mr. Tylenda
- 2. Senior Minister's Report — Rev. Dr. Cady
- 3. EC Minutes — Ms. Wilkens
- 4. PPRC Meeting Minutes — Mr. Stankaitis
- 5. PSC Minutes and Capital Improvement Plan — Mr. Hanrahan
- 6. Finance Cmte Minutes and Materials — Ms. Burch

Motion: Passed by unanimous consent

- Update to Board Policy Book — ALL

Suggestion to add a new 3.1.5, renumbering existing 3.1.5 and 3.1.6 correspondingly:

3.1.5 The Church Financial Director. The Financial Director reports to the Senior Minister, subject to appropriate Governing Board oversight including approval of candidates for the position proposed by the Senior Minister.

Suggested language for the fifth bullet of 1.1.1. below:

An annual, mutual Performance Evaluation of the Senior Minister's effectiveness conducted and coordinated through the Pastor Parish Relations Committee, and Board's effectiveness, in their respective roles as outlined in the Book of Discipline.

Valerie Benjamin stated Beth Wilkens provided with the recommended verbiage above.

Discussion Opened: Chuck Hanrahan stated he had questions on the current Board Policy Book.

1. In the overview, we refer to bylaws, what procedures is this referencing? In this notation it is referring to the Book of Discipline. It's in the first sentence of overview.
2. The Board Policy Book refers to the strategic plan. Is the Dreamscape our strategic plan? Yes. We should reference it and will make that change.
3. Vision of Ministry. What is this a reference? Stephen replied, it is a goal for the Governing Board that needs to be created. The goal is to create this each year to in conjunction with creating our goals. This is done in consultation with the congregation. How are we going to do that? Will we hold a future discussion on defining the process.
4. 1.3.4 Property stewardship comm. We reference trusts. I thought we moved this to investment committee. We have not been administering bequests in the PSC. It should move to Governing Board to reflect the current process.

Valerie will move "on-going receipt...." to her next update of the policy.

Action: Valerie Benjamin will update the policy book and send back to the Governing Board.

She will update it to our website.

NEW BUSINESS

- **General Conference: Implications for AFUMC — Mr. Tylenda and Rev. Dr. Cady**

Mr. Cady provided an overview of status. In February, the 2020 General Conference has now been postponed to 2024. This could make a difference if we have to elect delegates again. No movement is going to officially happen until 2024. In the meantime, the WCA and Good News, and Confessing Movement are now officially launching the Global Methodist Church on May 1, 2022. Some churches will probably immediately leave.

There is a provision in the Book of Discipline for churches that want to leave the UMC. In the Upper NY Conference, we have one of six bishops, who said that he is leaving the UMC to go to the Global Methodist Church. What does that mean to the churches who remain in the Upper NY Conference?

Is there a way that we can lead as a congregation as of right now? Or we do we wait two years from now? This is a topic we are following closely and continues to change. There is a hopefulness that is coming, even though it might be a couple of years away.

- PPRC Incident 3/7/22 — Mr. Stankaitis

Executive Session began at 5:23pm and ended at 5:55pm

- Board Evaluation/Assessment — Mrs. Benjamin

Action: Please review the board evaluation assessment. Please complete and return to Valerie.

- LGBTQ+ Advocacy questions for GB — Ms. Burch

The LGBTQ+ Advocacy Team is working on our webpage and to create content for our church web page, we are asking the Governing Board if they would be willing to provide content and answer a few questions. One of the ideas we had was to have messages on our page from a variety of people from the church. We hope to show with these short testimonials that Asbury First is truly dedicated to being an inclusive community.

There are three questions, that serve as guideposts:

1. What does it mean to you that Asbury First is a Reconciling Church?
2. How does Asbury First make you feel welcome?
3. Why is it important to you that Asbury First is welcoming?

Action: Please send responses to Barb Nelson. They will be included on the LGBTQ webpage.

- Revisit “3 big questions” for 2022 — ALL

Do we feel that these questions need to change? Discussion led by Valerie Benjamin:

1. How are we going to emerge from the pandemic better, faster, stronger?
2. Diversity and Inclusion
3. Lawsuit affecting the church

Another question is re-invigorating the life of the congregation after COVID. How do we take action? How does the re-launch of the outreach center affect the church?

Are we going to perform gay weddings? If yes, when do we start doing that?

Discussion: I wonder if we need to obtain feedback from the congregation to see if they have feedback or input on any of the questions. Should we ask if there are any more questions?

Action: Create game-plan for engaging congregation for our focus.

- Next Governing Board meeting is scheduled during Holy Week on April 11th. We will consider moving this meeting to account for Holy Week. Valerie will review dates and provide them to the Governing Board.
- Closing Prayer — Rev. Dr. Cady

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm

— Respectfully submitted, Cory Tylenda, Secretary, Governing Board