

GOVERNANCE IN ACTION

Monthly Executive Summary | May 2023

The following are highlights from the 05/10/2023 Governance Board (GB) meeting:

- **Call to order/devotional – Ms. Wilkens**

Members Attending: Beth Wilkens (Chair), Ike Jordan (Vice-Chair), Angie Burch (Treasurer), Cory Tylenda (Secretary), Jim Quinn, Rev. Dr. Stephen Cady, Sr. Minister, and David Strong, Church Administrator; **Absent:** Valerie Benjamin, Wendy Featherstone

Rev. Dr. Cady and the staff were thanked for leading a great Holy Week, with solid attendance for the services.

- Ms. Wilkens, on behalf of the GB, thanked Ms. Benjamin for her impactful leadership as a founding member of the Governance Board, for being instrumental in establishing the governance structure, and for serving as Governing Board's first Chair.
 - Ms. Wilkens reminded GB members to continue to sign up to staff the Sunday Help Desk as part of GB efforts to be available the talk with members of the congregation.
 - Ms. Wilkens distributed the Board Policy Book. GB members will review it before the May meeting, both to refresh our understanding of GB responsibilities and to see if any updates are needed. She will provide suggested language to reflect the April GB resolution regarding term limits, a topic not currently covered in the Policy Book.
 - Rev Dr. Cady noted reaction to his Palm Sunday sermon is a reminder of the extent of our digital reach, having been viewed/shared over 2,000 times. We have about 800 weekly digital visitors including live stream, weekly podcasts downloaded, podcast subscribers, YouTube watchers, and Boxcast. There isn't a way for us to know who visited our website or live cast unless the person "checks in" or tells us specifically via text or email. We need to consider how we budget for communications, staffing decisions, tasks, roles, and responsibilities. In essence, how do we effectively care for our digital members?
- **Review/Approve Consent Agenda**

◦ April 10, 2023 GB Minutes	Mr. Tylenda
◦ Senior Minister's April 10, 2023 Report	Rev. Dr. Cady
◦ PPRC March 27, 2023 Minutes	Mr. Quinn
◦ PPRC May 1, 2023 Minutes	Mr. Quinn
◦ Finance Committee March 20, 2023 Minutes	Ms. Burch

- **Old Business**

- Data Privacy: Mr. Tylenda reported on progress being made toward creation of a dataprivacy policy. Priority will be given to information that would be included in an onlineChurch directory.
- Beekeeping Proposal: The Governing Board reviewed a beekeeping proposal made by the Community Garden Team and approved by the PSC. The proposal was approved after discussion regarding the safety plan and insurance.
- Strategic Planning: The GB continues to work toward formally kicking off an updated strategic planning process

Monthly Executive Summary | May 2023

Continued from Previous Page

in the Fall. A meeting will be held with the former Dreamscape Committee to get their input as to lessons learned from that process. Board members have been asked to create lists of open questions as part of issues for possible consideration. Any process will be broadly inclusive of input from as many stakeholders as possible. We will bring the congregation up to date at the June Conference we are holding to vote on the columbarium.

The Three Big Questions. The Board continues its focus on its 2023 Three Big Questions:

1. What kind of congregation do we intend to be as we emerge from the pandemic?
2. We live at a moment when diversity and inclusion are major themes in our society. How will we respond as a church community? What impact should we seek to have on the lives of our members and our neighbors?
3. How can we ensure that the first year of the Community Outreach Center is as successful as possible and prepares us well for its future success?

Among others, we are trying to think what it means to affect public policy and be able to perform advocacy related to racial justice, equity, and gun violence. The three questions tie closely to issues to consider as part of the planning process.

- **New Business**

Sound of Music. The Board noted the remarkable weekend with the wonderful production of Sound of Music. Around 1100 people, including non-members, attended over the three days and it was a good way to have them see our church. A lot of volunteer work hours went in to make this happen.

Congregation Conference. A Conference will be held on June 11 to include:

- | Vote on columbarium proposal
- | Strategic planning process
- | Denominational update
- | Update on inclusive weddings
- | Community Outreach Center milestones
- | Weeden Fund
- | Questions members may have for the Board

Rev. Dr. Theodore Weeden Fund. The Board considered recommendations of an ad hoc committee that a fund be created in memory of Rev. Weeden in connection with his June memorial service. The Board is supportive of the concept and suggested the fund be called the Weeden Excellence in Preaching Fund, to be used to support activities such as bringing notable guest preachers to AFUMC and assuring continuation of the highest level of preaching at AFUMC.

End of Report