

The following are highlights from the 10/20/2025 Governing Board meeting:

- **Call to order – Chuck**

Members Attending:

Frances Bryniarski (Vice Chair), Jonathan Carroll-Nellenback, Wendy Featherstone, Chuck Hanrahan (Chair), Christy Leshner (Secretary), Tim Mahan (Treasurer), Dawn Riedy, Rev. Dr. Michelle Bogue-Trost (Sr. Minister), Deb Bullock-Smith (Church Administrator)

Absent:

Peter Owh

Guests:

None

Reviewed / Approved Consent Agenda

- Review/Approval of Governing Board Minutes of Sept 8, 2025
- Review/Approval of Finance Committee Minutes of Sept 13, 2025
- Review/Approval of Senior Minister's Report of Oct 2025
- Review/Approval of Property Stewardship Committee Minutes of Sept 10, 2025

Charge Conference / Town Hall / Celebration of Ministry Planning – Chuck

The Governing Board members will sit up front during the Charge Conference for visibility and our District Superintendent will be present, Rev. Richelle Goff. We'll follow a prescribed agenda that Michelle will share, and will include approval of last year's Charge Conference minutes, an overview of pastoral compensation packages (presented by SPRC chair Beth Wilkens), declaration of candidacy and retirements of clergy, and a celebration of ministry that the members present can participate in. There will be a time for member Q&A, including the ability for online attendees to submit questions.

Pledge Update – Dawn

We'll provide an update on pledge progress at the Charge Conference. Additionally, Dawn will place two more articles in the Monday Reader before the end of our pledging season both providing progress updates and highlighting hot budgeting topics. The Generosity Team will begin calling folks in the week ahead.

Three Big Questions: Defined + Planning for 2026 – Chuck + All

Putting structure around the Governing Board's work to develop Asbury's Three Big Questions is in fact our annual work product: that the Board, in concert with the Senior Minister, produce and adopt a 3 – 5 year plan, which will flow out of our DreamScape. From there the Board develops an annual short list of open questions about the church's future to guide planning. This annual vision of top priorities is a starting point for staffing, committee and team direction, and any incremental (i.e. adding one more meal at the COC) or missional (i.e. is there a totally new area of ministry to take on) changes.

As we continue to drive the work of the Board and committees and teams we are a part of, we need to report in on what we have been doing to move the big questions of 2025 forward, and identify barriers the Board can be helpful in moving around or removing entirely. A draft of the potential Three Big Questions for 2026 follow:

- Pending results of the 2026 Stewardship, a question around financial sustainability.
- Pending 2026 Stewardship results, a question around formation of a capital campaign team with an eye toward launch in mid-2027.
- Discussion around Asbury's third century – what does it look like in our changing world.

New Business – All

A budgeting update from Dawn highlighted that the issue of our gas and electric overages have been largely solved owing to a re-negotiation of our terms with our provider. Additionally, our Waste Management bill has been re-negotiated and nearly cut in half, and secured for three years. Finally, staff have given up some creature-comforts to overcome some final budgeting hurdles for 2026.

Tim surfaced Paula's resignation from the children's ministry role, but staying on in the hospitality role. This will be a big change for the congregation, and questioned if we should hold off on filling the position until we know where we are with the Stewardship Committee and pledges? Michelle's response was that we do need to proceed with filling the children and family ministry role and, if needed, look to other open positions to reduce, and reminded the Board that discussions about staffing will come from the SPRC.

Closing / Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at: 6:35 PM
- Town Hall / Charge Conference: October 26, 2025 after 11 AM service (Sanctuary, Live Stream)
- Governing Board Meeting: November 10, 2025 at 5 PM (Red Room, Zoom)

Respectfully submitted,
Christy Leshner