

GOVERNANCE IN ACTION

Monthly Executive Summary | Nov. 2022

The following are highlights from the 11/14/2022 Governance Board (GB) meeting:

AGENDA

- **Call to order/devotional — Mrs. Benjamin**
 - Present: Valerie Benjamin, President; Angie Burch, Treasurer; Cory Tylanda, Secretary; Joe Stankaitis; Chuck Hanrahan; Beth Wilkens; Rev. Dr. Stephen Cady, Sr. Minister; David Strong, Church Administrator
 - Absent: Ike Jordan, Vice-President
- **Review/Approve Consent Agenda — All**
 1. June 2022 Gov. Board Meeting Highlights — Mr. Tylanda
 2. Investment Committee Report (separate PDFs) — Ms. Wilkens
 3. PPRC Meeting Minutes — Mr. Stankaitis
 4. Senior Minister's Report — Rev. Dr. Cady

Motion	To approve the Nov. 2022 Consent agenda was offered with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oct. 2022 Gov. Board Meeting Highlights• Finance Committee Highlights• PPRC Meeting Minutes• PSC Meeting Minutes• PSC requests that the GB formally adopt the Cyber Security Policy• IC Minutes• Outreach Committee Update• Senior Minister's Report
Moved By	Mr. Hanrahan
Seconded By	Mr. Jordan
Outcome	Passed by unanimous consent

NEW BUSINESS

- **2023 Budget update — Rev. Dr. Cady**

To achieve our goals as a Church, forecasts indicate we will need to increase our budget by 10 percent. As with all organizations, AFUMC has incremental increases in non-discretionary spending. In addition to inflation, to move forward with a balanced budget we must consider that utility rates are way up, and Healthcare rates are up an average of ten percent from last year. Our pledges have increased substantially, and other pledges are increasing, and others are staying the same. We appreciate all the consideration and gifts by the congregation. We have received around 200 pledges as of 11/15/2022. We have received some new pledges as well. The 200 pledges are approximately half of the pledges we receive, including givers who are participating online. Next weekend with the Asbury First Community Center Dedication will be helpful. The pledges are vital in helping us determine our budget for the next year.

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- **Open Discussion:**
 - This year is different due to inflation. We won't have a fuller picture of budget until the first or second week of January. The GB will stay close to the issue.
- **3 Big Questions — ALL**
 - Ms. Benjamin initiated the discussion on the 3 big questions of our church. Members discussed several ideas and agreed to continue discernment in our December meeting is appropriate. Mr. Hanrahan led a discussion on how we can be supportive in our roles as Governing Board members to share our vision.

Ideas to garner feedback included:

- Forums
 - Opportunities to have visioning sessions to write or white boarding
 - Committing to predictable (perhaps quarterly) set meetings
 - Creating more opportunity for cross discussion
 - Inclusion of members/people who can only live stream
- **Request for Board Involvement at Welcome Desk — Mrs. Benjamin**
 - Governance Board members who have participated in staffing the Welcome Desk are enjoying the experience, and all are encouraged to sign up.
 - **New Business— Mrs. Benjamin**
 - We have received a formal request from the congregation to consider the topic of performing weddings inclusive of same-sex couples at AFUMC. The Governing Board will review information we receive from other churches and decide on how to develop a position and what forums to include the overall congregation, perhaps through a townhall style discussion or other forums.

Thank You to Chuck Hanrahan — Rev. Dr. Cady

- We want to Thank Chuck Hanrahan for all his hard work with helping lead the construction project of the Better Together Campaign. He has been involved for over ten years with planning, being onsite, and is here daily on campus to interact with the construction crews.
- **Senior Minister Update — Rev. Dr. Cady**
 - Discussion: We have hit the five-year mark on our dreamscape and we have a reason to celebrate. We can pause and reflect on the past five years. We want to confirm our mission and vision and discuss the process for confirming our goals. As we think through our strategic plan, does that provide a pathway to other things?
 - Taking a stand on the LGBTQ issues. There are churches are taking a stand on this issue. Their governing board has taken a stand to open up their congregation to gay marriage and performing weddings at Asbury UMC. I think this should be discussed and considered.
 - **Executive Session:** Due to confidentiality, Governing Board entered Executive Session at 6:35 pm and exited at 6:39 pm.
 - **Next meeting:** January 9, 2023 at 5 pm-6:30pm
 - **Closing Prayer — All**
 - Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

— Respectfully submitted, Cory Tylenda, Secretary