**WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Governing Board  
January 6, 2024**

Attending:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Kathy Breazeale | Bob McKnight | Jim Merk |
| Roger Curless | Rev Tammy Scott | Jonathan Akyea |
| Wally Loague |  |  |

Regrets – Dave Studdard and Mary Terrell

Opening worship was led by Bob McKnight. Cards for members of the congregation were distributed for signing by the Governing Board.

**Northern Illinois Conference Leadership Training Event** – Kathy and Bob attended a recent conference Leadership Training event. Pastor Tammy was one of the facilitators in sessions around finances. Some highlights of the Bishop’s address were shared. Anyone wanting more details can contact Kathy, Bob or Pastor Tammy.   
Report from NIC Leadership Training in Barrington, Jan. 27, 2024

Bishop Schwerin Address to participants

Kathy Breazeale, Bob McKnight, Herb John and Pastor Tammy Scott in attendance.

* The church needs to understand the importance and have understanding of AI (Artificial Intelligence). We need to learn as it will impact us. It is seen as the new literacy.
* The UMC will be having massive budget cuts – 40 to 45%. 20 years ago, there were 55 Bishops. By the end of 2024 that could be 32, 27 or even 22.
* At the end of 2019, 325 churches had 35 members of less, by the end of 2022 that was 51%.
* The bishops will need to make the system work. Will be setting new goals. Who needs a full-time appointment? Looking at church sizes, who pays apportionments, pension obligations, water bills? Probably considering longer term appointments. 71% now are 3 years.
* NIC and Wisconsin will share 1 bishop. Other conferences will be consolidating. This will be creating a new system of management with different support staffing (who actual know the churches and Pastors), as 1 Bishop can’t be available to the hundreds of miles of territory and churches involved in collaboration on a daily or even a weekly basis.
* The bishop expects regionalization will come into play. The UMC being less U.S. centric. Ex. Africa will handle its own issues, Europe handles its own, etc. UMC will not be so dependent on the Gen. council. He feels, it will be hard, but the hurtful anti-gay language in the Discipline will probably be removed at Gen. Council this year.
* Immigration and migration and the needed hospitality for all these people (estimated to be 65 million on the move in next few years will be a struggle. More multicultural leadership will be needed. Mission will be from everywhere to everywhere, but remember, Jesus in with the church.
* Acknowledge the world is changing, what we are doing is changing, we cannot prop up what was. If we don’t focus, we will be left behind or non-existent. What used to work, isn’t, and that can create chaos. We must experiment and learn from failures. A new structure is emerging...
* His Advice. Stay with the UMC – stay, pray and help.
* **Trustees  
  - Update on Lift** – Just over $31,000 has been raised to cover the cost of replacing the lift from the parking lot to the first floor. The estimated total cost will be just over $38,000. Donations continue to come in and there are some special gifts yet to arrive. Given the timing on placing orders and receiving parts the work will begin sometime in April at the earliest. By consensus it was agreed to sign the contract to get the process underway and to communicate with the congregation progress and filling the gap between what donations have been secured and what will still be needed.
* **Finance**- **2024 Budget Discussion** – Anticipated income considering pledges, space sharing, investments and other sources is approximately $320,000 against anticipated expenses of near $500,000. Money is being taken from the endowment now. Right now all expense levels are being held at the 2023 levels. All contributions to community organizations i.e. Pride Parade, are on hold and may be funded by individual gifts from members of the congregation. A special task force charged with the responsibility of looking for additional revenue streams has been formed and has ha done meeting. Ideas to raise approximate $12-$15,000 are being formulated. No salary increase for staff are planned for the year. The budget and the parameters outlined was adopted. It was agreed to look at the financial picture every three months and determine at that time if staff salary increased can be implement, otherwise they will hold at the 2023 level.
* **Nueva Vida UMC Consultation**Discussions on ways to engage in mutual ministry and sharing have begin with Nueva Vida. Pastor Tammy and Kathy have had one meeting. The long-term plans for being in ministry together and what all that might entail are under discussion. Besides Nueva Vida and Wesley there are no other United Methodist congregations serving Aurora proper. Bethany of Fox Valley UMC, while on Aurora’s far southeast side tends to draw from portions of Naperville and Oswego rather than the more central part of Aurora. Discussions on a future together we ill continue.
* **Unhoused in Aurora –** During the coldest part of the past week, Wesley served as a resource for overnight housing when Hesed House was at capacity. Over the past week-end Wesley housed 26 people. This is meant to be a temporary situation with the weather bing cold and Hesed at the limit the city will allow to be sheltered there.
* **Fund Raising Task Force**As noted earlier Pator Tammy is meeting wit a group specifically taked with finding additional revenue streams.
* **Listening tour**Pastor Tammy noted how helpful the listening tours were when she first arrived at Wesley and feels these should be more of an annual thing to be able to hear from the congregation,
* **Website Renewal**Resources are being sought to update and refresh the current website.
* **Financial Management**With the changes in office personnel by consensus the Governing Board affirmed the following positions which will remain in effect until such time as the Governing Board takes additional actions.  
   Executive Officer – Rev. Tammy Scott  
   Financial Secretary – Courtney Kimble  
   Primary Check Signer – Ann Merk  
   Authorized Additional Check Signers – Meredith Lindgren & Roger L Curless

**Next Governing Board Meeting: March 5, 2024 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM.  
Future Visioning Meeting with Staff – March 23, 2024 -9:00 AM – 12 Noon**

Respectfully Submitted  
  
Roger L Curless, Secretary  
Governing Board