



GUM CHURCH

Our vision is to actively live the example of Jesus

Governance Board Meeting Agenda
November 19, 2022 | 9 am
Library

In attendance: Karen Ambs, Dan DeZwaan, Doug Barry, Kelly Goward, Sue Kremkow, Marie McDonald, Shaun Skibinski, *Sherri Swanson, *Michelle Wood
(*non-voting member)

Others in attendance: Karen Owen (joining Governance Board in 2023)

Absent: Karen Strickland

1. Devotions

Kelly shared a devotion, “Be Thankful for People” by Robin Dugall. She thanked the Governance Board members and shared how thankful she is for leading the Governance Board. Kelly closed the devotion in prayer.

2. Pastor’s Update

- Led a New Member Class. Seven new members will be received in church at 10:30 am on 11/20.
- One wedding and one funeral.
- Attended North Central Jurisdiction conference in Fort Wayne, IN and is happy to report that Bishop Bard will be coming back to our Michigan Conference.
- Memorial Garden is completed. There was a dedication ceremony in early November. It was a beautiful day. The old sign has not yet been removed.
- Door letters are now on each of the church doors. Still in need of new entrance signs by the parking lot. Hoping to raise funds for that through memorial gift contributions.
- Water drainage problem in education wing of building. Trustees will be meeting to discuss.
- Will be traveling to Iowa for Thanksgiving. Brad is retiring next summer and is hoping for a ½ time appointment.

3. Reports from Ministry Groups

- a. Karen S.
Java Center: Pastor Sherri noted that Java Time is now being offered every Sunday and is encouraging a rotation for providing treats.
- b. Kelly
Landscaping Team: Done for the year. No update
- c. Marie
United Women in Faith: 9 women attended World Thanks Offering, Circles are in full swing, Jeri B. has all volunteers for New Amsterdam dinner. Pew cleaning went well. Looking forward to Advent by Candlelight.

4. Old Business

- a. Fall Church Conference recap
50 people were in attendance. Everything has been turned in to the District Office. Sherri thanked the leaders, as well as Amy S. for coordinating everything. Packets are still available if members would still like one to read and review.
- b. New member buddies
No one from the latest New Member Class is interested in a new member buddy. Sherri encouraged Governance Board members to continue to show hospitality to new members and visitors.
- c. Rainbow doors maintenance
Continued discussion of the maintenance of the rainbow doors.
Kerri D. approved the youth to paint in spring, if needed. Paint would NOT have to come out of her budget.
Doors continue to fall over. Who is in charge of keeping them upright? Perhaps, after the New Year, the Governance Board and Trustees could work together to develop a plan.
Is there another option to make a statement? If we remove the doors, how would they be replaced? Feather flag? Include something on the Digital sign? Paint the brick? Could Eagle Scouts take on as a project? Should we form a committee?

Karen A. offered to head up a rainbow door committee. Further discussion will continue after the committee has been formed and had time to discuss.

- d. Native American Awareness – statement of land acknowledgement (samples and resources included)

What approach does the Governance Board want to take? Karen A. suggested reaching out to Liz. S. to see if she would be interested in championing. The Governance Board will need to adopt the statement once it has been drafted.

5. New Business

a. Festival of the Arts and Storage Unit

The storage unit currently is filled with ½ or more of Festival of the Arts materials. The rest of the unit is filled with church items (bulletins, financials, etc.) The rental of the storage unit is \$175/mo. Do we continue to be involved with Festival of the Arts? The last time GUM was involved with Festival was in 2019. At that time, we raised about \$9,000. It was noted that is a lot of work requiring many volunteers. Many who were on the committee no longer attend GUM. About ½ of the money raised was given to mission and the other 1/2 to a GUM church need. What do we do with the Festival items? Karen O. volunteered to take care of the Festival items and house them in their pole barn. If the Festival items are removed, we can move the other items to a smaller storage unit. It would be good for the Trustees to look at other storage facilities to compare rates. Dan D. suggested that, out of courtesy, he would like to contact Rainie W. and Dale B. to discuss the Festival items in the storage unit.

MOTION: Karen A. made motion to table the discussion until Dan has spoken with Rainie W. and Dale B.

SECONDED: Marie seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

b. Flight Plans (attached)

Flight Plans were originally developed during the Vital Church Initiative (VCI) many years ago. If people had an idea they wanted to start, they were given the flight plan to fill out. Do we want to go back to this and promote? Do we want to use this form as written or are there things we would like edited? How do we communicate to congregation? After some discussion, it was concluded that Kelly would make some edits to the form and share through email to Governance Board to discuss any tweaks. We will plan to make announce of flight plan to congregation the 3rd Sunday of January 2023. Karen A. will make announcement to congregation and Kelly will write the announcement for church newsletter.

c. 2023 Budget

Finance Committee is currently working on budget. Their next meeting will be December 13 at 7pm, when the budget will be drafted. A Governance Board

virtual meeting was set for Monday, December 19 to review the budget for approval. Dan D. asked that Governance Board members see the amounts requested by staff for their budgets, as well as the amounts recommended by the Finance Committee. Kelly will communicate to Finance Committee of the 12/19 Governance Board meeting and also ask that staff requests are included in the budget discussion.

d. Governance Board changes and opening

- Dan D. and Sue K. are ending their terms.
- Ashley F. has resigned.
- Kelly will be moving to SPRC.
- Lindsey Meredith will be filling out rest of Kelly's term.
- Karen Owen and Jon Tuscan will be joining the board beginning in 2023.
- Currently, there is a position open on Governance Board for someone to hold for a 3 year term. Three people has been asked and declined. If anyone would have a recommendation, share with Pastor Sherri.
- Kelly handed her digital files to Karen A., who will be assuming the role of Governance Board chair in 2023.

6. Future Meetings

Karen A. suggested Monday, Jan. 23, 2023 at 7pm and will email to those not in attendance. Kelly will send the Governance Board contact list to Karen A.

7. Additional request by Karen A.

Karen A. shared that the food pantry is in need of many non-food items (paper products toiletries, etc.).

8. Closing Prayer

Sherri closed the group in prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Wood
Governance Board Secretary

Holland Museum Land Acknowledgement:

As a cultural institution, rooted in the history of this community, it is important that the Holland Museum demonstrates respect for the historic and contemporary presence of Indigenous Peoples in Holland, Michigan. In collaboration with people from the Potawatomi, Odawa, and Peoria nations, this land acknowledgment statement has been formed to express gratitude and appreciation of the land we use.

The Holland area surrounds Lake Macatawa, ancestrally known to the Potawatomi, Odawa, and Peoria nations as Mekatewegamie, or Black Lake. Each nation has their own rich cultural traditions and beliefs that still survive today. We, the Holland Museum, acknowledge that this land is sacred, and we commit to honoring the land and the indigenous peoples who have stewarded it for generations through continuing education, partnerships, and self-reflection.

Fairwood Community United Methodist Church (WA):

“We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional land of the Coast Salish, Duwamish, Muckleshoot, and Stillaguamish Peoples past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. This calls us to commit to continuing to learn how to be better stewards of the land we inhabit as well.”

<https://greaternw.org/circle/landacknowledgment/>

<https://www.moumethodist.org/resourcedetail/writing-a-land-acknowledgement-17030277>

Richfield UMC (MN): <https://www.richfieldumc.org/land/>