Bothell United Methodist Church - Governing Board Minutes
July 23, 2019 - 7:00 – 8:30 PM - Lounge

Attendees: Grayson Holmes, Candace Larson, Marty Howell, Mary Morral, Patsy Etheridge-Neal, Eric Trott, Pastor Joe Kim, Pastor Kristin Joyner, Cynthia Dickman, Ji-Young Kim
Minutes Prepared By: Candace Larson
Next meeting: August 27 7PM

• Grayson offered opening prayer
• Decision: Minutes from the 04Jun2019 Governing Board meeting were unanimously approved without changes
• Opening Devotion – Acts 2: 42-47
  o What miracle, sign, or wonder do you expect to see at our church? We’re wasting our time if you show up to do things as they’ve always been
  o May we have expectations that something supernatural will happen
  o Action Item for GB: Read chapter 4 before the next meeting

Pastor’s Report
• See separate report. Highlights included below
• Elected to serve in delegate to jurisdictional conference
• Determining best tool for auditing worship services (starting with River)
• Officially transitioned to Breeze; staff is trained, small group leaders to be trained; expectation that all leaders will be trained; due to difficulties, the finances will be a few weeks late – financial team is working on it
• Rent discussions: ease increase over ~5 years
• January – will lead 4-week study every other month (What does it mean to be a Methodist); no more than 20 people per offering; GB is expected to participate in one of the first 3
• Nomination and leadership development meeting on Thursday to discuss filling open slots; district day of learning
  o GB made aware that Gary has decided to step away from GB during his time of transition to a new job
• VBS – at capacity! Expecting ~95 participants
• Small groups – 20 available! Get involved, encourage others to get involved!
• August 25 – Community serve day; how can we get more involvement? Huge decrease from the first year to last year; Online worship service for that day

Bothell Urban Update (READ UP ON IT HERE)
• Town hall meeting last Thursday (7/18)
• Process of getting an appraisal (expected in the next few weeks)
  o Will be as a parcel including the labyrinth and gardens
  o Discussion of Subdivision will come up; may be a difficult conversation down the line
• Learning from Edmonds UMC who sold grounds with gardens on it
• Creating a visual to aid understanding of the process
• September: 3 focus sessions (Sat 9/7, Thurs evening 9/12, Tues day 9/17) – **Action Item for GB:** prioritize attending one of these meetings

• The why: Team has repeatedly heard the need for affordable housing, access to resources, and community gathering spaces; due diligence has been done

• The Hangar and Third Place are examples of community gathering spaces that work well; let’s not limit imagination, though

• Pray for the Holy Spirit to move the congregation to hear the community needs and take the leap

• **FAQ available**

**Facilities**

• Pastor Joe is working with the renters to update the contract and reestablish new rates

• Security system: situation seems to be improving; received a bid to get a camera focused at the front door
  - Barb is looking at the breakdown of charges for security
  - Questioning what exactly we need for security for the church
  - Decision may come to GB next month

• New conversation with ICOB about a different tree; initial tree was too large to put in the space allocated

**Generosity**

• As of May: still hurting from January, recouped some in May. Expenses continue to increase (but in line with what was budgeted)
  - Will continue to monitor trends for August and September
  - Continue to wait and see

• Financial team identifying appropriate auditors (committee) per book of discipline
  - Nominations to formally invite the committee

• June report to be made available soon; giving has improved

• Letters to be provided to givers to give them an idea of where they are with their annual giving
  - Moving forward Breeze can send electronically if people opt in

• Staff is aware of financial situation; without hindering ministry, be wiser / more diligent with spending and putting off spending until September or October

**General Matters – GB Format**

• Prioritize setting 2020 focus / theme to assist goal setting for staff
  - Staff sets goals to support the vision set by GB
  - Pragmatic or Conceptual?
    - Conceptual allows for interpretation from each
  - How can we gauge commitment and involvement?
  - Last year helped prioritize spending, positions for 2019; but not goal setting
  - Need to find the action
  - “For the love of God” page 57 in 5 practices – shifting the thought to focus on how you can serve God by serving your church / community / neighborhood; “All in”

• **Action Item for GB:** Think about focus for 2020 to guide the church (and enable staff to set goals) – to be brainstormed in August meeting
• Revision to GB structure – to be discussed at the fall retreat; what role does the visioning body (GB) have in the more practical nature of the Trustees / SPR / Finance groups; do we need a sharper division?
• GB still needs to set vision and purpose for the board

**Personnel**
• Per the UMC Book of Discipline, personnel discussions are done in closed session.
PASTOR’S REPORT

• Note from Annual Conference: I was elected to serve as a delegate to Jurisdictional Conference, which will be held in Billings, Montana, from July 15-18, 2020. As part of the delegation, I will be serving on the delegation to General Conference as well in Minneapolis, Minnesota, from May 5-15, 2020.

• Eagle’s View
  o BUrban conversations moving along – Pastor Kristin leading these conversations.
  o I am currently working with staff to assess and audit each of our three worship services. Soon, we will seek input from the congregations of each of the services. The basis of our assessment is whether our worship services are “passionate”? We will tackle each service one at a time – River will be first. Pastor Casey is working with Jeremy to take lead on some future conversations, including a survey for River Service that is almost done and will be distributed to those who participate in the River Service. We are excited for the input.
  o The Program Staff and the Finance Office has transitioned to using our new church management software – Breeze. All staff have been trained, and we will be setting up trainings for the leadership of our ministries.
  o We are troubleshooting some of the transfer that did and did not happen in the transition to Breeze. Mid-Year Financial Statements, with a letter from me, will be sent out early August.
  o Meetings with Outside Groups regarding rent have begun, starting with the Northshore Co-op Preschool (NCP). They will increase their rent from $730/month to $1230/month, at the latest by 2024. After they reach $1230/month, the monthly rent will increase by government-named COLA. This is pending confirmation from their Board that meets in early August. The goal is the increase the total rent income by 20% for 2020.
  o Summer Discipleship opportunities are all underway with active participation. Preaching Preview Bible Study is consistently meeting on Wednesdays; Morning Meditations have averaged about 6 people every Monday Morning; Short-film Sundays have had about 7 people every week; Young Adult Dinner Group has had 10 every week.
  o I am planning to lead a 4-Week Study every other month on the topic of what it means to be Methodist. In the midst of all that is happening in our denomination, I think it is important for us to get to the fundamentals of what it means to be Methodist, how to understand Wesleyan theology, and how might God be leading us forward. Each 4-week study will be limited to 20 people, and I will continue this until everyone has participated or there is no more interest. The plan is to begin January 2020 – all Governing Board members will be strongly encouraged to join any of the first three offerings (January, March, May).
  o Nominations/LDT meets on Thursday to look towards 2020 – Gary Wagar resigned.

• Pidgeon’s View
  o Vacation Bible School is August 5 – August 9. Orientation for leaders and volunteers will be on Sunday, July 28. Registration has exceeded capacity!
  o Registration is open for our third season of Small Groups (September 2019 – May 2020). We have 20 groups available, with a mix of fellowship, discipleship and service opportunities.
  o Sermon Series are being formed for the rest of the year. September will be our Identity Series, focusing on the idea of “belonging”; October is TBD; November will be our Generosity Series; December will be our Advent Series. In between these series are: World Communion Sunday and All Saints Day.
  o Community Serve Day is August 25. We are planning on having an online devotion before people head out to their respective placements. Last year’s engagement was particularly low; we are looking at better means of communicating the “why” of participating in Community Serve Day.
  o YTD Average Worship Attendance: 360 (375.5 YTD in 2018)