

Minutes

WBLUMC Board of Directors Meeting

August 17, 2021, 7:00AM via Zoom

Members Attending: Margie Grilley, Chair, Pastor Bill Eaves, Al Rausch, Jan Peterson, Margaret Westin, David Kittleson, Wes Erwin. Absent: Chin Oji.

Opening – Pastor Bill opened with a prayer

Volunteer to take minutes – Margie

Agenda Items:

- Minutes of June 15, 2021 Board Meeting were approved by email and will be published on the church website. There was no further discussion on the June meeting minutes.
- New board members David Kittleson, Margaret Westin and Wes Erwin introduced themselves to the board.
- Meeting schedule and minutes taker: An informal poll had been sent around to the membership to find a day and time that works for most for the monthly board meeting. After some discussion about options, it was decided that we will stay with our current schedule – 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00AM via Zoom. We will also try to coordinate an in-person meeting possibly quarterly, with date and time to be determined. We will move to a sign-up system for minute-takers, rather than ask for volunteers at the start of each meeting. Margie will send out a Doodle Poll sign-up.
- Dick Brink bequest & beneficiary designate: Pastor Bill reported on the bequest from the Dick Brink estate to the church. In order to receive it, someone from the church will be need to sign as the “beneficiary.” To make that happen, we need a corporate resolution in the minutes of the board that designates a person to sign. Bill moved and Al seconded a motion to designate Margie Grilley, as board chair, to sign as the beneficiary. After discussion, Margaret made an amendment to the motion to change the language to read “the board chair” rather than “Margie Grilley, as board chair,” shall act as representative to the bequest on behalf of the church. Wes seconded the motion. Motion was pass unanimously.
- Minnesota Annual Conference Racial Justice Resolution and Anti-racism Initiative: (A copy of the Resolution was sent with the agenda.) In brief, the Resolution states that all congregations in the Minnesota Annual Conference join the national denomination in the ongoing efforts in dismantling racism, opposing white supremacy and advocating for racial justice. Bill led the discussion to generate some ideas for engaging WBLUMC, including bringing in a guest preacher, and re-run the “We the People” program. From our discussion, other ideas included promoting and attending some of the “Many Faces” programs that are held in the White Bear/Mahtomedi community (WBLUMC is a monetary supporter), let the congregation know about the Minnesota Annual Conference’s “Peace with Justice” grant for use on programming,

hosting unconscious bias training, engaging church youth (i.e. confirmands) to develop a teen-focused program, partnering with a church that is primarily people of color, reach out to a Mosque to have them over for a meal, and host our own program based on “A Good Time for the Truth.” The board agreed that we need to find ways to keep the discussion alive and move forward on these ideas by partnering with existing church groups and ministers.

- Staff Updates (Pastor Bill): Lori McBride, who was planning to retire at the end of September, was asked to stay on part time in her role as Missions and Faith Formation Minister, for approx. 15 hours per month. She has agreed to continue. Funding had been set aside for her position through the end of the year. Staff Parish Relations Committee will find funding for 2022. Pastor Christine will absorb some of Lori’s duties, along with taking over Pastor John’s role and confirmation. There are currently openings for an organist and a children’s choir director. Gerald is taking the lead on recruitment for the two positions. Office staff and ministers have been authorized by SPRC to continue to work from home most days. The office has limited open hours: Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00AM – 2:00PM.
- Annual Leadership Summit (January, 2022): The board is responsible for planning the annual Leadership Summit, traditionally held in January. It was decided to hold the 2022 Summit on Saturday, January 22, in the morning (tent. 9:00AM-Noon). Margie will contact the office to reserve Room 200 and to connect with committee leaders to save the date and begin the goal-setting process. It was decided to have this as a hybrid meeting – in-person, and over Zoom for those who would prefer that option. New board members who have not been a part of the Leadership Summit in the past asked to see an agenda of a previous meeting. Margie will send that to members.
- Board Retreat: Margie proposed the idea of holding a board retreat, possibly later in 2021 or early 2022. This will be discussed further at a future meeting.
- Capital Budget Committee Update (Jeff Lantto): no update this month.
- Marketfest booth evaluation: Bill led a discussion on the booth the church had during the 6-week run of Marketfest. It was our first time and he wanted to get our feedback to help determine whether we would do this again. Margaret reported that she staffed the booth one week and felt that we got a lot of interest. The crowd felt more diverse than previous years. Al reported that he attended Marketfest with his family one week and thought the crowd leaned young and possibly unchurched, so those staffing the booth should keep that in mind and ask ourselves, “Who are we trying to attract? And how can we attract a more diverse congregation?”

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 21, at 7:00AM via Zoom.