

Governance Board Highlights

May 5, 2013

Volume 2, Issue 2

Recent Ministry Highlights:

- Men's Lenten Series continued throughout March.
- GEMs season is complete after having an all-nighter and end of year auction.
- Cadets participated in the annual Pinewood Derby Race and also attended the Cadet Camporee with other local Cadet Groups
- Senior High Youth attend Winter Jam music festival.
- Junior and Senior High Youth attended the Believe Retreat
- Connect Groups continue to meet during the Not a Fan sermon series.

Governance Board

Pastor Jim Lester - President
(669-5070 ext. 22)

Fred Stalsonburg - Vice President
(457-1468)

Bruce Wiers - Clerk, Elder Chair
(437-2351)

Ryan Aukeman - Finance & Facilities
(893-3943)

Howie Branch - Deacon Chair
(498-3347)

Julie Van Oordt - Daily Spiritual Growth
(662-0725)

Joann Koning - Worship
(516-6194)

Duane Hager - Encourage
(669-0551)

Jamie Decker - Serve
(669-7391)

Congregational Meeting Held

The Governance Board was busy during March and April preparing for the Annual Congregation Meeting.

Staff reviews were held. Budgets were drafted, reviewed, adjusted and finalized. Consistory nominations were received and slates created for new leaders.

In case you missed the Congregational meeting on April 28, a budget was approved for 361,000. This represents a planned increase over offerings

received last year. We believe that God will continue to provide the financial resources to pursue the ministries He has called us to.

New Governance Board members selected are: **Julie Van Oordt** (Spiritual Growth Elder), **Joann Koning** (Worship Elder), **Jamie Decker** (Serve Deacon).

New Care Elders are **Gene Moore** and **Sherwin Weener**.

New Care Deacons are **Christian Gilhuly** and **Tim Meyers**.

We thank each of these individuals for their willingness to serve our congregation during this time of pastoral transition. There will undoubtedly be some challenges but also much ministry to be excited about. As a congregation, we need to pledge our prayers, encouragement and support to these leaders.

Strategic Planning and Search Teams

The Strategic Planning Team is approaching the home stretch creating a 3-5 year ministry plan. Congregational dialogue sessions are being planned for Sunday, May 19 and Wednesday, May 22. The entire congregation is encouraged to attend one of these sessions to understand and provide feedback about this ministry plan.

It is important that there is support and enthusiasm behind this ministry plan before the Search Team can begin the process of identifying the pastor provided by God to lead us forward in ministry.

The Governance Board has formed a Search Team to be led by **Gary Beyer**. Other members of this team include:

Ryan Aukeman
Melissa DuBuis
Dave Van Allsburg
Lee VanderHam
Julie Van Oordt
Ellen Wiers
Colleen Worst

Limiting Designated Giving

The Governance Board, at the recommendation of the Finance Team, has adopted a policy to only receive designated offerings and gifts when the deacons ask for a special offering and/or establish a designated giving fund like the

Benevolence Fund or for an all church giving campaign.

Over the last few years, many offerings have been given specifying a specific ministry already included in the church budget. It takes extra effort to manage these designated gifts and it is

hard to analyze expenses and create new budgets when money is used outside the general fund.

If you have any questions about this policy change, you can contact Ryan Aukeman, Chair of the Finance Team.