

The Castleton UMC Governance Board met on February 11th, 2025, with a good turnout. Cristy Catt led a thoughtful devotional about making the most of our precious time on Earth, and the group shared joys and prayer requests. Pastor Matt reported on the success of the children's chapel for CUMNS.

The board delved into spiritual growth with Chris Croys leading a discussion on the first chapter of "Emotionally Healthy Discipleship." They explored what it means to be a disciple – being with, becoming like, and doing like Jesus. They will continue the discussion next month.

Pastor Matt shared encouraging news about the church's involvement with the community. The Loaves and Fishes Fund disbursed \$6,000 to ten families in 2024 and \$1,500 to three families in 2025. The families are referred to the church through the Lawrence Courts. Matt shared an update on our partnership with Safe Park Indy, which provides safe overnight parking for the unhoused.

The Council then discussed the challenges of reducing the church debt. The Governance Board recognizes the urgency of this financial challenge and how it impacts our ability to expand ministry and missions.

Committee members have been busy in many areas of the church. The Staff Parish Relations Committee is continuing their important work of recognizing and supporting all staff. The Missions Team is preparing some helpful information to share with the congregation about their many activities and opportunities for participation. The trustees have been touring the buildings and grounds and have found that the church is having some trouble with frozen pipes and the dry sprinkler system. They are also planning a spring clean up day and addressing the condition of the parking lot.

The Council reaffirmed the Governance Board Covenant and made a few minor adjustments to the Guiding Policy and Operating Principles. Going forward, agendas for upcoming meetings will be conveniently posted on the church website.

The meeting wrapped up with Cristy's closing prayer at 8:10 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for March 11th.