

With all board members in attendance, the March Governance Board meeting began with Jan Wagner sharing a reflection on community, using the analogy of biscuit-making to illustrate how individual ingredients combine to create something greater. The group then discussed Chapter Two of the book Emotionally Healthy Discipleship. Chris emphasized the need for the governance board to "BE before they DO" and lead from vulnerability, embracing God's gift of limits.

Pastor Matt reported on the Community Transformation Team's meeting with Cheryl Johnson, Navigator of the Lawrence Township Small Claims Courts, which handles evictions, to discuss ways CUMC can come alongside and support her clients. Identified needs like tutoring, money management, and resource access. A collaboration with Lawrence Township Schools was suggested. Pastor Matt has submitted his Lilly Clergy Renewal proposal, entitled Catching Joy, and expects to be notified in late August. The Church of the Living God is thrilled to be on the CUMC campus, and some joint activities might be possible this Summer.

Financially, the church is currently tracking well within its budget for this year. Funds from a matured CD were moved to savings, and the annual insurance premium was paid. Online giving will be simplified to three categories: Operating Fund, Loaves and Fishes, and Others. The Governance Board is continuing to research, discuss and find ways to address the long-term debt.

The Missions Committee, busy as always with opportunities to serve, announced a Walk-a-thon for Outreach on May 18th, "Night Without a Bed" May 3rd, and an Allies informational presentation will take place in June.

The Trustees are taking great care of the buildings and have made some repairs to the sprinkler system in the Ministry Center Building. In order to ensure that the meditation garden will be around for many years to come and for all to enjoy, the maintenance costs will be moved to the Trustees' budget.

Looking towards the Summer, the Fish Fry team created a list of leadership positions that they hope to have filled by May 1st. They feel that having the key positions filled early is essential for a successful event.

Still Waters Adult Day Center will hold a senior expo with thirty-three sponsors and community partners offering elder law and a variety of senior resources on April 10th.

Jan closed the meeting with prayer and the meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM. The next meeting will take place April 8th and the agenda will be posted to the church website one week prior. Please contact any of the Governance Board members with questions, ideas or concerns.

Addition: On Sunday, March 23rd, the Governance Board had an extended time together to review, discuss, and discern our financial future. There was a time of prayer, grounding in scripture, and devotion shared by Pastor Matt and Linda Bailey using parts of Fr. Henri Nouwen's book The Spirituality of Fundraising. David Ayers gave an overview of our finances and debt. Meredith Wilson offered information from past endowment work. The entire group talked about how we communicate our financial position and future opportunities to give.