**WESLEY BOARD MEETING - Sunday, December 18, 2022**

**Attendance**: Pastor Mary Bellon, Rev Nan Smith, Lauren Loonsfoot, Jill Brand, Mike King, Darin Johnson, John Jacobson, Brian Brand – chair.

Pastor Mary Bellon opened the meeting at 11:30 AM with prayer.

Pastor Mary expressed excitement about restarting the Wesley Board. She sees this as a transitional moment. She observed that niche ministries are where congregations excel. Wesley could be a light to the whole congregation.

**Opening Comments:** Chair Brian Brand stated that the Board has a long road ahead of it. And that in fact that road has not been built. It is important to make students feel at home.

* Wesley Board is here to help the Campus Minister – purpose
  + Understanding what Lauren is currently doing
    - Tasks are cyclical – every 3 months or semester to semester
    - August is critical when students arrive and return to campus
  + Understanding how we can help Lewis Cox (in coming Campus Minister, ¼ time through Feb)

**Communications:**

* Getting the word out to students
  + Post a flyer at the SHOP location on campus. Encourage students to join Wesley for a meal. Lauren responded that this has been tried and generated no responses. Mike King reflected that Wesley may need to go to where the students are, e.g. on campus. In the past, Wesley events that were held on campus drew bigger non-Wesley student audiences because it was in “their space”.
  + The beginning of the semester is a critical time when students are setting their activity priorities. This spring that will be when Wesley transitions between Lauren and Lewis. Classwork for Spring 2023 commences on January 17.
* Contact Annual Conference Communications Team to include an article in a Conference newsletter
* Brian – Messages need to lead with a “why” statement
* Need to do a few communication pieces really well.

**Funding and Outreach:**

* Alumni currently contribute about $200 annually. Better communication with them should produce more.
  + John Jacobson proposed pairing individual Wesley students with Wesley alumni in the same field, thus providing mentorship and a personal connection to the current Wesley ministry.
* Wesley should not rely on solely Collegiate for funding.
  + Future Annual Funding from Annual Conference = $15000
* Pastor Mary reported that in 2023 Wesley will be one of the top three priorities for David Orth, Director of Generosity.

**By-Laws**

* The previous Wesley Boards worked through many iterations.
* Pastor Mary stated that Wesley cannot have its own by-laws. She explained that because Wesley is incorporated with Collegiate we can have only on set of by-laws that serve both.
* Wesley can have Guidelines which will need to be approved by Church Council. These could be developed as a living document which would be reviewed and revised annually to meet the needs of students and our student ministry.

**Budget**

* Shared expenses
  + Mike King asked if the shared expenses will change in 2023 because we will re-establish the Campus Minister position.
  + Pastor Mary offered that Collegiate might take on the cost of the Campus Minister while Wesley would cover the cost of programming. She stated that the shared expenses will not change.
  + Pastor Mary and Lauren cautioned that although a position may be described as 1/3 Collegiate and 2/3 Wesley in reality ministry does not divide neatly by the hour or the day to reflect this. Overall the clergy and professional staff are working for Collegiate/Wesley.
  + Mike observed that shared expenses artificially divide the budget. This is necessary when applying for some grants.
* Grant funding
  + Pastor Mary shared that Wesley Board needs to explore available grants. One option is to apply for a Lily Foundation Grant.
  + Mike mentioned that funding is available through Pillar grants our district.
  + Mike advised that potential grants need to fit Wesley’s purpose rather than adjusting Wesley’s purpose to fit a grant’s criteria.
* Other sources
  + Pastor Mary suggested the Conference Builders Club which helps church facilities do renovation.

**Future Organization and Structure**

* Meetings
  + Jill Brand proposed a pre Wesley Board meeting with students to collect student input. This meeting would include a meal for the students.
  + The schedule for 2023 meetings will be determined later.
* Friends of Wesley – Mike suggested the formation of a Friends of Wesley group. These individuals could help host events, partner with students and possibly provide financial support.

**Future of Wesley Place (the house next door)**

Brian Brand provided background about Wesley Place and its community of students.

* Over the years there have been challenges with community living.
* Time has also taken its toll on the physical structure. A recent review of the structure estimated that it will require $200,000 to make a suitable living space.
* Should Wesley Board take a pause and not house students for the 2023-24 academic year?
  + If there is to be a pause current residents need to know in January so they can begin making alternative housing arrangements.
  + Lewis Cox has a background in intentional Christian communities and is excited about working with the Wesley Place community.
  + Part of intentional community living is an active involvement in the ministry of Collegiate/Wesley.
* Options for consideration at the January meeting
  + No / never: Permanently close Wesley Place and end the Christian community ministry.
  + No / pause: Temporarily close Wesley Place, resume Christian community when it reopens.
  + Yes / renovate: Wesley Place remains open and structure is renovated to be more livable.
  + Yes / rebuild new: Wesley Place is torn down and a new multi-purpose structure is built on the site including space for a Christian community.
  + Disconnect community from Wesley Place: John Jacobson suggested that the Board could explore finding an alternative housing location for the intentional Christian community.

Pastor Mary closed the meeting with prayer.

**Next Meeting: (tentatively) January 15, 11:15, following worship, Student Lounge.**

Summarized by John Jacobson