

June 9, 2026

Leadership Board

Present: Todd Hubbard, Nolan Peterson, Jeff Melvin, Mike Vanderspool, Rick Fitzgerald, Andrea Alford, David Shaw

Absent: Heather Hay, Curt Collins, Kasie Cousino

Guests: Jody Croskey, Susan Adam-Rita

Spiritual Formation and Leadership Development segments are combined this evening and led by Nolan Peterson, Andrea Alford, Jeff Melvin (three of our four lay members to the Michigan Annual Conference session of The UMC). They shared a recap of what annual conference is all about. Key legislative matters – various social issues, two policies (Clergy Ethics, Parsonage Guidelines), budget, number of districts. Worship, teaching/learning sessions – Dr. Ashley Boggan – two very exciting and compelling presentations about John Wesley and our history. Intentionally inclusive – strident abolitionist; advocacy for those imprisoned.

The early Methodists were very radical in their time...after Wesley's death the movement pulled back, some would say compromised their Gospel convictions, to be more socially acceptable, to have status and power.

Large, big topic breakout rooms (4) – based on social principles...Food Justice; Ethno-Centrism and Tribalism; Universal Accessibility – how our facilities and programs increase accessibility for the maximum number of people (ex: importance of closed captioning); Creation in Peril.

Additionally, the agenda was amended so that plenary time could be given to Anti-Bias Anti-Racism training for laity and clergy

Goals Updates

Hospitality – the Hospitality Leadership Team will meet June 29 to digest the input from the Focus Groups conducted in the spring.

Lifelong Faith –

Program Assistant position description has been prepared

Meeting with Youth on June 7 – discussed what is meaningful to them; how they might like to be involved in planning and leading worship

Demographics – Kasie continues to work; we will circle back to this soon in light of other engagement activities.

Engagement – Todd, Andrea, David (recommendations for how to invite congregation to be interactive with the worship themes, getting acquainted with each other, etc. They'll be meeting with Tammy Melvin to implement the recommendations.

Consent Agenda – approved as submitted: minutes from May meeting and Consolidated Financial report from April

Washtenaw Congregational Sanctuary – the statement of joining this organization was shared with the congregation. Next steps include designation of “private” areas in the church building; signage on doors communicating our position; ongoing considerations about safety generally when we leave the building unlocked and untended for many hours most days.

Town Hall – June 24

Lots of discussion about what input we would like from participants as we prepare for the August Strategic Planning retreat.

After much discussion, Todd, Andrea, Mike, Joy agreed to meet, consider all the input and create a format for the Town Hall.

Several matters that were raised:

In what ways are we participating in deep listening in our neighborhoods (within our congregation and beyond)?

(many neighborhoods – Dexter, Chelsea, Grass Lake, townships, ...and online community)

What are the gaps that exist in our community that our church might be a part of addressing? Gaps in our community of church; Gaps in our wider community

Becoming a Listening Church movement in our denomination: Listening to God, Listening to each other, Listening to our community

Policies and procedures (being reviewed by Kasie and Todd)

Guiding Principles (receiving input from Andrea, David, Curt – are these clear and understandable; questions, recommendations?)

Communication

Closing Prayer
Adjourn