

COVID-19 Accelerates Restructuring Efforts

As our abbreviated three-week summer camp season gets underway, the Wesley Woods Board of Directors is moving forward with staff restructuring and other efforts to ensure long-term financial stability. The Board began working last fall with the Rev. Dr. Pam Harris of Run River, a well-respected camp and retreat center consulting firm, to assess operations and develop a plan to reduce financial shortfalls while maintaining quality programming.

Early in 2020, the board and consultant believed that with some restructuring, the camp could continue through the entire 2020 season and move forward toward sustainability. Then came the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in a shorter summer camp season and fewer families willing to send their children to camp. When three organizations that each had reserved the entire camp for a week late in the summer all cancelled, significantly reducing expected income, it became apparent that immediate action was needed to reduce costs.

On June 24, the board made the difficult decision to eliminate all of the current year-round positions as of mid-August, while moving the current maintenance director into an on-site manager position. In this role, he will care for the facilities and welcome guest groups through the fall and winter seasons.

The changes will not affect the current three weeks of summer camp programs. Western PA United Methodist Conference Camping Coordinator Shane Hinderliter will assist as needed.