

**Church Council Minutes**  
**Union Church, January 20, 2014**

Present: Jean Boyce (Clerk & Cap. Camp.), Michelle Tooley (Mission), Shirley Carlberg (Treasurer), John Culp (S&F, Cap. Camp.), Doug Hindman (Vice Moderator), Dave Kobersmith (Church Admin), Rachel Small Stokes (Assoc. Pastor), Steve Boyce (Properties), Betty Hibler (CL&G), Carla Gilbert (Worship), Rob Hayden (S&F)

**Devotion:** Betty expressed appreciation for the MLK services, and then read again the Prayer of Confession from Sunday's service.

**Minutes approved.**

**Rob Hayden presented financial projections.** With help from and thanks to John Culp, Jean Boyce and Dave Kobersmith, Rob developed some spreadsheets and charts to explain the concern of the Finance board relative to our financial future. Though a deficit this year can be covered with existing reserves, future projections of income based solely on new membership are insufficient to support future expenses. A good discussion ensued, including such topics as the difference between not-for-profit fund-raising vs long-term stewardship, and bridging from a capital campaign back into stewardship. We're not good at asking for contributions and it's hard to get money for ongoing expenses (as opposed to special projects); perhaps we need to hire a consultant. Rob, John and Dave will continue to work on defining the problem, identifying alternatives, and communicating with boards, Church Council and the congregation.

**Shirley reported on current finances.** There are still some year-end items to book but it appears we will end the year with a deficit of \$10-15,000. She pointed out that a large part of that is due to the unexpectedly large electric bills, and is pleased with the result compared to our original budget last year which showed a shortfall of \$47,000. The Properties board is actively managing the electric bill and will be installing monitoring equipment to try to identify the source and timing of the peak usage.

**Annual Congregational Meeting set for March 16, the 2nd Sunday of Lent, right after worship.**

**Safe Havens of Madison County**, an Emergency Response agency, has approached the church to be shelter in case of tornado watch. Doug will host a meeting of interested parties this Sunday.

**Mission & Service** Willie Dodson has offered to collect and take water (tap water in clean jugs is OK, gallon size preferred) to WV. Also, Mission Board is co-sponsoring with St. Clare and Berea Friends Meeting a forum on capital punishment called "Not in Our Names: Victims' Families Speak Out Against the Death Penalty". It's in the library community room this Saturday from 2:00-4:00.

**Rachel** commended our excellent young preachers! She feels the month has gone extremely well, with 172 people attending the service at which Ethan preached. She mentioned Shirley Dean is at the end of her life; she has been one of our committed web viewers during her illness. We will welcome new members this Sunday; she's expecting four to join. And FD, CL&G and MSB boards have begun planning this year's Lenten Challenge.

**Church Council** thanked Rachel for planning and executing such resoundingly successful coverage for us during Kent's sabbatical. She and we gave thanks to **Carla** for her able assistance throughout.

**Next meeting will be February 24<sup>th</sup>, which is the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, not the 3<sup>rd</sup> (which is President's Day). Consider deadline is tomorrow. Rachel prayed us out.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Shirley Carlberg