

Church Council Minutes Union Church, May 18, 2014

Present: Jean Boyce (Clerk), Shirley Carlberg (Treasurer), Joan English (recorder), Kent Gilbert (Pastor), Betty Hibler (CL&G), Doug Hindman (Vice Mod.), Dorie Hubbard (Worship), Dave Kobersmith (Church Admin), Paul Smithson (PRB), Bill Stolte (Prop), Barb Taylor (FD), Gail Wolford (Moderator)

Devotion:

Betty offered the devotional, a poem from Thirst by Mary Oliver.
April minutes approved.

Financials Shirley reported on the Spring Forward Campaign & distributed a revised budget. Campaign ended 5/18, and gifts continue to come in. Instead of a \$41,298 deficit, we have a projected \$14,723 surplus (this, of course, depends on pledges coming in as projected AND no unexpected non-budgeted expenses). We have reached & exceeded the \$20,500 offered as matching funds! Of the \$35,775 Spring Forward proceeds, over half is in-hand right now. Discussion of whether we know if the money pledged for Spring Forward is likely to be pledged in years to come, and that's unknown at this point. May's month-end financials will reflect Spring Forward funds.

Reminder that our long-range strategies have not been abandoned, we remain committed to keeping our Stewardship Campaign to ONCE a year. This matching gift & successful campaign has given us "breathing room" to do our homework.

Church Council does not need to approve this revised budget and, coming as a motion from the Finance Board, it will not need a second (from Robert's Rules of Order).

Long-term Financial Strategy – Task Force has been appointed: Co-chairs Greg Lakes & Sune Frederiksen, Matt Jadud, Gina Chamberlain & Shirley Carlberg. They have also got some good resource folks who were not able to serve on the Task Force (Mim Pride, Rob Hayden & others)
Have not received report yet from Suellen Rowe, but we do expect it.

Rachel's Report on House Meetings (below) Intangible benefits included making connections with one another & tighter bonds. Newer members attended in greater proportion than longer-attending members. Many thanks to the Community Life & Growth Board and Rev. Rachel for their hard work putting together the neighborhood meetings! There was the suggestion of shuffling the groups for future meetings.

This is from 12 of the meetings. Still missing data on one meeting. 13 total meetings, Approx. 75 people attended total, average of 6 people per meeting, not counting facilitator.

Overall reports are that people felt well-informed about the financial situation and had a chance to ask questions. LOTS of ideas generated about our assets and how to use them. Examples include.

- Use the College connection more. Would Berea College help? (supports WCSC but not directly)
- Community of caring people worth knowing
- Presenting to civic orgs, clubs, schools, on issues of justice
- Advocating on issues of justice, income inequality
 - Anti-drug movement (offer solace)
 - Children stuck in poverty cycles
 - Opportunities for ways to participate if you can't come to church – email
- Artists – gathering talents/gifts
- Planned giving
- Investments
- Talents of people – ALL – thinkers, not enough doers
- Retired people – bring so many gifts

- Teaching institute
- Coffee house idea – Conversation Café, like a church that happens downstairs, a community that cares
- Book Club – Silas House

Here's the ranking of where our energy lies as to what is inspiring and exciting:

Tier 1

Passionate Worship (49 votes)

Mission and Service (39 votes)

Social Gatherings (33 votes)

Tier 2

Children's Programs (30 votes)

Pastoral Care (27 votes)

Spiritual Growth (25 votes)

Vital Music (25 votes)

Public Witness (24 votes)

Tier 3

Community Center (18 votes)

Environmental Stewardship (14 votes)

Board Reports

Properties – Dave reported on Sanctuary renovation – design has been finalized. Ideally this work will be done in July. Council was encouraged/reminded to stress that the money we are spending on Sanctuary Renovation is already in-hand and from specific donors, and is **not** reflected in the Annual Budget. Several pews will be shortened for wheelchair seating, 3 in. more space will be added between pews. Katrina Rivers Thompson will consult on carpet choice. Question – will there be hymnal racks added? IF there is money left after the larger jobs - Steve Farmer will bid, as will a church furniture company. Sidewalk through the parking lot is Berea College's project, and is in process. An 80-gallon water heater will be installed in the kitchen, cost – approx. \$1000

Community Life & Growth – Betty reported that Weds Nit Live has wrapped up successfully – 60-70 people at dinner! Much of the growth is due to young families bringing their kids to choirs and staying to eat and visit.

Fourth Sunday newcomers sessions have been very successful, with 4-7 attending and sharing their stories. These have been very meaningful, holy moments.

Second Sundays – new members are received. The 2nd & 4th Sunday schedule is very helpful. Discussion of missing plates in the kitchen – a “come home” appeal will go into the bulletin.

Worship – The Music Search Committee is getting close to a final candidate. May 25 will be Rob Hayden's last Sunday. Working on filling June with substitutes. The Board is working in creative solutions for worship in July – the 1st & 3rd Sundays will be in the Community Room, 2nd & 4th in Cowan Chapel with an added evening “alternative” service. Alternative is perhaps a Taize service, different sorts of music, just something out of our ordinary.

Pastoral Relations Board – gearing up to do pastoral evaluations, hopefully in September. Kent reminded the group that Rachel 's Terms of Call raise the possibility of a merit raise after 2 years and an evaluation. Willie's last Sunday before he begins his new job, will be June 1. Heather Richardson is the new WCSC Director.

Finance – Shirley reported that Hilliard Lyons, the firm that holds the Lambert Fund, gave an informative report – she suggested an after-lunch info session on planned giving after worship some Sunday

Nurture & Care Board – Kent intends to focus energy there soon

Rev. Kent – expressed joy and gratitude for Spring Forward campaign! Dear Jean concert, honoring Jean Ritchie and featuring Kathy Mattea et. al. – planning is going well, ticket sales strong online (275+). Church retains \$4 per ticket, \$4 given to Appalachian Voices. Eric Dodson, Admin Chair, asked Kent to report on his behalf that the Board is working on Building Use Policies and how to best make use of our building.

Before closing, Dorie asked for help finding a family that was very helpful to her and Tom after Dorie's fall on Sunday, Russ & Mary Goodman, daughter Alyssa.

Next meeting June 16, Shirley will offer the devotional.

Rev. Kent dismisses with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan English