

Church Council Minutes Union Church, July 22, 2014

Present: Jean Boyce (Clerk) Shirley Carlberg (Treasurer), Eric Dodson (Admin), Joan English (recorder), Kent Gilbert (Pastor), Betty Hibler (CL&G), Doug Hindman (Vice Mod.), Dave Kobersmith (Church Admin), Rachel Small Stokes (Assoc. Pastor), Paul Smithson (PRB & Prop), Barb Taylor (FD), Gail Wolford (Moderator)

Devotion:

Betty offered the devotional, a piece she wrote for Writing through Lent (a Lent 2014 class) about immigration, gleaned from her experiences in several countries. Kent shared that Union Church is collecting funds for assistance to immigrant children currently held in detention. Mission Board will research the best way to assure donated funds get to the children, and will offer matching funds (goal is for funds to be released by August 1). Discussion of the possibility of offering temporary quarters to some of these children in Berea. June minutes approved.

Financials Shirley reported that we are, currently, in great shape for 2014 and on track for having a surplus, thanks to the generous participation in the Spring Forward campaign.

Sustainability Task Force is meeting regularly, Gail has assembled a document compiling their ideas. They plan to tackle a few each meeting, along with a time for brainstorming. They've also discussed factoring in "overhead costs" in grant dollar amounts (the additional electric needs, staff time, etc).

Doug reminded the group to keep the 2015 Budget in mind, even before the fall stewardship focus.

Jenny Bromley has offered to help getting the Kroger shopping card program going, along with a volunteer Dave has already lined up. Amazon Smile has been used successfully, checks are sent quarterly.

Sanctuary – this portion of minutes refers heavily to the attached pdf produced by Rev. Kent listing each project with projected costs.

The proposal is to use our disbursement from Lambert Trust funds in the following manner (after 5% is allocated to each of 4 funds, as directed by our Financial Policy) –

- \$20,000 retained for "rainy day" purposes, which we commit ourselves to leaving untouched this current year (can be reconsidered at the end of the year in case of pledges not coming in as anticipated, or another emergency, but the firm goal is to leave it in the bank). For perspective: in previous years we've had just \$8,000 - \$11,000 which we considered "rainy day" money. Church Council governs the use of Lambert Funds. Any church member can propose an expenditure of Lambert monies, but Church Council votes "yea" or "nay." Jean commended the idea of a large reserve, it makes us all feel better to know we have a comfortable cushion.
- \$1000 for solar panels. This will be added to money already set aside and used to lease an additional 4 solar panels, bringing our total to 12. This money had previously been budgeted in 2014 and had to be cut.
- Sanctuary improvements, see list, total of \$15,877

Discussion: the dollar amount stated for pew sales may well change, since we're not sure how we will divest ourselves of them. Discussion of the pews – what would be the best use of them? Gail suggested they might be used on campus as gathering spots in long hallways, she has a contact to consult on campus – she & Dave will pursue and report. People will be invited to "adopt" a pew rack, and that money will go back into Lambert Funds (the long pew racks will cost \$50, the short, \$45). Regarding lighting: the process of changing lightbulbs is complicated and takes several people. We have had several bulbs burn out and, since they were installed at the same time, we can be sure the rest will follow soon. Installing LEDs will reduce the humming which causes interference with the sound system. LED bulbs are more expensive, but will last about twice as long AND save considerable energy (up to 40% of what is currently used to light the sanctuary). The color of bulbs will be chosen to brighten up the quality of light over the main sanctuary to match the choir loft bulbs.

Eric affirmed that all these projects need to be done, and it makes the most sense (financially and practically: ex.: we only want to wrap the organ for dust protection ONCE) to do them when the sanctuary will be unoccupied.

Discussion of Properties Board involvement in the project list – they met earlier in the day and had only discussed the solar panel purchase, along with their other agenda items – new hot water heater installed in the

kitchen, discussion of Cowan Chapel windows' rotting woodwork, when to address the drainage issue in the parking lot.

Council was reminded that these projects had originally been in the scope of our earlier remodel, but had to be bumped when we discovered how expensive the sprinkler system would be.

Question raised --What is the chance that adding these projects would extend the timeline of the original floor/pew project? Anything is possible...but much of the list under discussion can happen after the floor project is complete.

There was discussion of dividing up the list of proposed expenditures and voting piecemeal, but after further discussion, and after the Clerk established that we DO have a quorum:

Paul moved, Eric seconded, that we approve the document in its entirety. Passed unanimously.

Helping new members get & stay connected. Community Life & Growth reported. We have about 20 new members this year! We need to support them and get them connected with other new – and established – members. Betty asked for ideas, and for people to keep open to the idea of hosting people for dessert, Nine-to-Dine events, perhaps a class on sexuality, a series for those who think of themselves as spiritual refugees, a study on We Make the Road by Walking, groups organized by age or topic ...who will lead these great ideas? Maybe some people would be willing to be “designated inviters,” so a new (or newish)-comer would have a personal invitation to a potluck, maybe offered a ride. Discussion of a tear-off slip on a bulletin, where people could indicate their desire to attend, and/or host, an event. Shirley will call new members and invite them to participate in music-type opportunities. Rachel reminded us that the great gift of being the church is that we can support each other through the daily walk of life.

Gail stated that her great preference is to get to know someone by working together, leading to a discussion of the Mission Board's plan to offer some kind of service opportunity every month through the school year.

Habitat for Humanity plans a Madison County build soon.

Clerk asked for, and was given, permission to change the reporting year to January – December instead of Annual Meeting- Annual Meeting.

Adding a member to the Administration Board – Sarah Broomfield of the Nominating Board has asked Stephanie Woodie to serve on Admin. and she's agreed. Her appointment will be voted upon by the congregation at the next meeting.

Paul moved, Betty seconded, that we affirm Stephanie Woodie's appointment to the Administration Board class of 2016.

Next Church Council meeting would normally be August 18 but, after discussion, it was agreed to postpone it to August 25, since there is a carillon concert on August 18. Union Church would like to offer an ice cream social to attendees on the quad and we'll make sure there is no conflict before we schedule it. That's orientation weekend for incoming students – God on the Quad event is the 17th and Shirley suggested we recruit students to help serve ice cream – brilliant! Plans will proceed once we see a calendar for the weekend. Contact person: Chris Lakes.

Dave: if you see caution tape on a sanctuary door after worship on August 3 & for the length of the project: **Do NOT Enter.** Even if you don't step on anything you shouldn't, you may raise dust that can damage wet polyurethane.

Reports:

Admin Board is revising the Building Use Policy to increase revenue from rentals.

Pastoral Relations Board is nearly ready to go with Pastoral Evaluation document & would like to have the whole thing complete before the Stewardship Campaign.

Worship Board has undertaken planning two services per Sunday in August, using Iona materials. We have a special opportunity to have the St. John's Bible physically at our worship service on October 12 – it's the first hand-printed and hand-illuminated Bible produced since the Gutenberg Bible (produced in the 1450s). Berea

College has rented a facsimile of the Psalms and Gospels, which is in Special Collections. It's in 7 volumes, and a COPY would cost \$140,000. The Bible is 3 x 4 feet in size.

Rev. Rachel - Youth Group plans an active, re-vamped program year. This year there will be a confirmation class, so mentors will be needed. Faith Development and Mission together are proposing a monthly service project – Serving And Loving Together, SALT.

Rev. Kent is working on staff evaluations, and both pastors have done some serious pastoral care work recently.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan English