

Church Council Minutes Union Church, February 23, 2015

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), John Payne (M&S), Leslie Small Stokes (N&C), Rachel Small Stokes (Assoc. Pastor), Bill Stolte (Properties)

Devotion:

Rachel offered the devotional, a reading & reflection on A Spirituality of Fundraising by Henri Nouwen. He asserts that we are using our finance to help the Kingdom of God come about. January minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Shirley is very close to "closing the books on 2014." She anticipates a surplus of \$18,000, 10% of which is available to Mission Board, as per our Budget Policy. The rest shall be used as Church Council decides. \$10,000 of that projected surplus is already spoken for in the 2015 budget. Mission may also choose to turn that 10% back to the budget.

Shirley will print detail reports for each Board. She commended Boards for spending frugally. Discussion of whether or not our revised Building Use fees have generated more income – too soon to tell, but we have several nonprofits regularly using the space for a fee. Kent and Dave figured out that maintaining the building costs about \$111 a day – so a \$50 charge for meeting space is helpful.

Discussion of long-term CD, which earns us a nearly unheard-of 5% and will come to term in Nov. of 2020 (thanks to Tom Manning-Beavin, who made this investment when he was Treasurer).

Nomination of Honorary Lifetime Deacons

Discussion of the position – no duties or obligations, it's a public thank you for long service.

By acclamation: to be asked if they would like to be nominated this year: Mary Nash (who has declined in the past), Gloria VanWinkle, Tom & Dorie Hubbard (Tom is not a member but a faithful active participant). Doug will ask them. Next year: John & Ramona Culp will be nominated.

In response to a question from Dave – yes, we will provide babysitting at Church Council meetings starting in April when both Kobersmiths attend.

Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising – Conducted by Lilly School of Philanthropy. Rachel and Dave attended, both found it tremendously valuable. Dave distributed some bullet points and both offered to visit any Board meeting to share what they learned – regarding connecting our passion and our giving. Both Dave and Rachel have projects they chose, and which must be completed, to receive their certificate.

Discussion of giving across generations, and Jessica Holly's gift of art to the church.

One element they brought back – our staff meetings now begin with writing our thank you notes for gifts & graces received through the previous week.

Discussion of Kroger & Amazon Rewards – disbursement is usually made up to 45 days after the end of a quarter.

Annual Meeting is March 22, next Church Council meeting will be used to prep for it.

Discussion of Line of Credit – Bill would like to see the decision to limit it to \$170,000 (currently, \$140,000 has been drawn) printed in the Budget Policy in the Annual Report. It was pointed out the Budget Policy may not be the best place for this notation, since the Line of Credit is not reflected in the Budget. At this point, all remaining Capital Campaign expenditures are known - as they are limited to 2015's salary support, and we will not need to draw any additional funds to cover that.

Shirley suggested that it be published in the minutes of the Congregational Meeting when it was approved (this has been done by Jean, Clerk, in the May, 2014, minutes, which are published in the Annual Report) and every year in the Treasurer's report until it's paid off. Reminder that no additional money can be borrowed on that line of credit without Church Council approval.

Other Annual Meeting prep needed? Boards are invited to think about Church Council goals – budgeting and moving from a Pastoral to a Program church.

Board Reports

Comm. Life & Growth: Betty and Gail were given books by John Culp which they have found very helpful – one is Raising the roof by Alice Mann, which pertains to nurturing and integrating new members and, VERY helpfully, states that the tension in moving from a Pastoral to Program church that we may be feeling is healthy and normal. We need to develop strategies similar to those developed for bringing in new members (4th Sunday gathering, 2nd Sunday invitation to join) for integrating & involving our new members into the life of the church.

One of the attendees at the last 4th Sunday session will only be in Berea for about a month, and has offered to host a fundraising storytelling evening to benefit the church. Idea floated of inviting new members to attend Board meetings as a guest, just to see how things work.

Mission: struggling with regular Church Council representation. Michelle, Austin and both Belangers have resigned – the Board now consists of just John, Jenny and Jessica (chair). Nominating Board plans to ask Laura Howard to be on Mission. John will approach Mission about leaving the \$1800 (surplus from the 2014 budget, discussed in the Treasurer’s Report) in the budget.

Nurture & Care: excited about the Lent offering “Post-Traumatic Church Syndrome,” N&C is needing new members as well.

Properties: The church has significantly reduced its energy usage – will be highlighted in next Consider.

Admin: Eric reported that, despite a heated battle for the chairperson-ship, he is remaining as Board chair next year. Board’s task for next year will be to make sure that every position has a clear job description, and they will set a schedule for yearly review

Pastors: Rachel reported that the weekend retreat with confirmands, Youth Directors and one of the mentors was very successful and meaningful. We received 6 new members in February, likely to receive a couple in March. Challenge: with all our new members, our congregation is now 20% different than it was at this time last year. What does that mean for them, for the 80%, and all of us as a church family?

The online-only Ash Wednesday service was a great success, and had views from all over the country.

Lent opportunities about to begin. We have a very new thing happening – a group is meeting to discuss aging in place – really hasn’t got a name yet, just a germ of an idea – working title is Home with Help. A grant was obtained from St. Joseph Berea Hospital, some of which has been spent to join Beacon Hill Village, an established village concept in Boston. More info to follow as it develops – if the group gets to the point of having income and spending, we can be their 501(c)3 umbrella.

Kent: has been dealing with members in crisis, experiencing emergencies, several time-consuming and ongoing. We have a list of infrastructure issues he’s working on with Dave. Proposed the idea of using Google Docs for Church Council votes – easy to use, and will be a record of such votes. Staff is using this successfully for worship planning. Music program is thriving – this is a particular joy!

Next meeting: March 16. Betty will offer the devotion.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan English