

Present: Jeff From (Vice Moderator), Dave Kobersmith (Church Admin.), Kevin Burke (Comm. Life & Growth), Carla Gilbert (Nominating), Marty Hensley (Admin), Sally Hindman (Properties), Laurinda Poole (Finance), Paul Smithson (Moderator), Doug Hindman (Worship), Jean Boyce (Clerk), Rachel Small Stokes (Assoc. Pastor), Kent Gilbert (Lead Pastor), Joan English (Recorder)

Devotion: The devotion was offered by Dave from The Book of Awakening by Mark Nepo, essay called “The Risk to Bloom.”

Agenda approved (Carla moved, Doug second). March & April minutes approved (Jean, Paul).

Financial Report

Shirley reported & invited questions. Income is coming along nicely EXCEPT the Lambert disbursement was lower than anticipated by about \$2500, and the Spring Forward Campaign, which we hoped would bring in \$15,000, netted nothing at all – unless some people increased giving and didn’t designate it Spring Forward. Summer months are usually light income months, and Shirley anticipates November & December will be as good as in previous years. We have been further behind at this point in the year in years past – Shirley is not panicking yet, but isn’t ruling it out. Regarding Pledges and Gifts, half the year is gone and we have received 50.2% of projected income, even without Spring Forward dollars.

Dave reminded the Boards that the 4% of the Lambert distribution, which had been designated to the 5 Designated Funds each, will NOT be available for their use this year, because Council voted in November of 2016 to *“redirect Lambert 20% to the operating budget, which has to be addressed in the 2017 Budget Policy (clarification from Finance Board on 12-13, “Lambert Policy” is shorthand, referring to Article II, #3 of Financial Policy, which directs undesigned bequests to Boards)”* If income starts to pick up, Church Council can decide to allocate it back

Discussion and/or Action Items

- **Rekindle the Spirit August 27:** Beginning of the program year (WNL, children’s church, Youth Group) is celebrated at Rekindle the Spirit Day, Faith Development Board will prepare lunch. All Boards are encouraged to send a representative to give a short pitch or information “blurb” about their work and/or projects, especially ways for people to help or get involved. The Youth will lead the worship service that Sunday.
- **Quarterly Funding Requests:** these will be reviewed in August. A form was developed (which will be put in the Google folder) to request funds for particular projects. Boards are asked to consider whether they’d like to make a request at their August meetings and submit a form to Church Council to review on August 28 (our next meeting, due to Solar Eclipse trip happening on the 21st, the usual 3rd Monday meeting date). This review will be more of a priority-making situation, not a “yes” or “no.” Requesters are asked to research how much a project will cost, the line item(s) for funding AND consider any installation or maintenance needs attached to the request, as that usually has yearly budget implications.
- **Berea Leadership Experience (BLE):** Will be July 24-28 at the Friends’ Meeting House from 9-3. Ages are 6-13, wide distribution of ages have registered, pretty even gender mix. Some economic diversity, as was desired. Cost is \$75, about half the campers got scholarships to reduce the cost to \$25. There are 43 registered. Free lunch will be served, thanks to Grow Appalachia and their USDA grant, which funds the Berea Summer Food Service Program.

- **Stephen Ministry:** We have 8 committed to the first training! They plan to start August 22 and go through the first week in December. They are seeking a retreat site for about 12 people.
- **CoCoDA:** (Companion Community Development Alternatives) They are holding a conference at the end of October, if anyone would like to attend. The ongoing project is to use solar power to bring clean water to people in Suchito. The hope is to get a Union Church delegation to go soon – but not to this conference. Paul expressed gratitude for the recent \$2500 fundraiser lunch.
- **Chapel Windows:** We have a verbal agreement with Classical Windows for \$8700 to repair all 6 windows. They will all be removed at once and the spots covered with plywood. It'll take about 2 weeks and the windows themselves will be worked on in Louisville, while another person works on the frames and sills here. Project will happen end of July, early August. Exact dates TBD.
- **Solar Panels – first year report:** due soon. Berea Municipal Utilities' billing lags behind, so we should have a full year info in a couple of months. Our solar panel use has saved 20,000 pounds of coal and saved nearly 500 trees! Brief discussion of a new technology to efficiently heat our water in the kitchen for WNL for about \$150.
- **Mission report on Bazaar:** Rev. Kent reported. Sept. 16, during Spoonbread Festival, is a tentative date. It may or may not happen this year. Board is down to 2 members. They are exploring other ways to sell goods to benefit the church. There is an awful lot of carrying things back & forth, for a very small return. Jean Boyce presented a quilt from the Wylie sisters' estate that Bob has cleaned and completed. We may raffle that off with or without a bazaar. Discussion of possible booth at the Spoonbread festival, space at Mini-Mall, eBay, other ideas welcome.
- **Staff Handbook:** Admin: Marty reported that about 1/3 has been approved, the other 2/3 is in draft form. Much of the information already exists in other places (letters of employment, job descriptions), and some needs to be created. They're getting there!
- **2018 Projected Budget:** Expense side only, of course. Reflects a 4% increase (approx. \$20,000), mostly in salaries, which is our biggest expense. Increase in Nurture & Care line reflects needs for Stephen Ministry – materials, perhaps retreats, continuing education.
- **CL&G:** WNL will start August 30 and will be a potluck. Shirley is willing to continue to oversee dinner – yay! Youth will cook occasionally, but probably not monthly.

Rachel's 5 year anniversary at Union is coming right up. Kevin recommends the worship service include a celebration of her ministry then a party downstairs. Jack will assemble a slideshow – any photos are welcome. It will be a Sunday in September, date TBD

- **Stewardship Campaign:** Trying to be proactive. Kent, Rachel & Dave drafted some job descriptions of the ideal Stewardship team for Church Council (identified but not approached yet) to review, those were distributed for review. Considering consultants, RSI, Lake Institute, Agile Church. Agile Church's approach is that an Annual Pledge Drive is becoming less successful, attempting to switch over to automatic giving. They say they're available for this year's campaign. Next step – Finance Board discusses. Dave has a list of fund sources, which might total \$13,000 optimistically.
- **Budgeting for 2018:** please get tentative financial requests to Finance by the end of August.
- **Nominating Board:** looking for a replacement for Bill Stolte on Mission Board. Not sure about Martina Jackson – she has moved to Lexington, works in Frankfort, so serving on a Board may be too much travelling for her. But she has not resigned. BJ has resigned from Worship. Add Ellen Mink to Admin.

Pastors' Reports

Kent – both pastors spent time in Frankfort testifying regarding Medicaid changes the governor is threatening. Public comment is very important. Those also commenting were representatives of AARP, MS Foundation, mental health advocates. Comments accepted til August 2. Of particular concern is that requirement that people work/volunteer 20 hours a week to receive benefits – in communities and/or households where that simply is not possible.

Both also attended their UCC General Synod. Inspirational!

CNN is considering piece on sanctuary offers in communities, Kent may participate.

Pastoral concerns: Andy Blyth with congestive heart failure, Elizabeth is better, Laura is healing up, Susan is struggling.

Kent's wedding is August 5!

Rachel – reflected on the devotional Dave read – she is discovering that, in her Pastoral Care, she has borne witness to blooming in peoples' lives.

BLE is next week! Kim Kobersmith is Director, staff is trained.

Nursery has more children! Moved to Room 104. A year ago, we had precisely 0 kids in the Nursery, now we may need to add another staff person! Decorating on July 23, after worship.

New members are joining nearly every month.

At synod - Rachel has finished her 3 year term on the 2030 network, had her continuing ed week for NGLI, and reported a powerful youth testimony on behalf of Palestinian youth. Our youth have returned from Passport Camp.

Next meeting August 28. Devotional: Kevin. Closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan English