

Present: Dave Kobersmith (Church Admin.), Kevin Burke (Comm. Life & Growth), Carla Gilbert (Nominating), Marty Hensley (Admin), Laurinda Pool (Finance), Paul Smithson (Moderator), Doug Hindman (Worship), Jean Boyce (Clerk), Rachel Small Stokes (Assoc. Pastor), Kent Gilbert (Lead Pastor), Joan English (Recorder), Shirley Carlberg (Bookpr), Jenny Bromley (FD), Mary Lou Wiese (N&C)

Devotion: The devotion was offered by Kevin, a reading and prayer from *Prayer, Fear and Our Powers*, by Flora Wellner, formerly of the Pacific School of Religion.

Rev. Kent led the meeting, as Jeff From has resigned as Vice Moderator due to work conflicts, and his commitment as a Stephen Ministry leader.

July minutes approved as presented, by raucous acclamation. ☺

Financial Report

Shirley reported & invited questions. She stated that we are doing fine for this time of the year: income is coming in as expected and expenses are under control. Discussion of inadvertent double contribution to CoCoDa. Paul will be in touch and inform the director & tell him to consider the second payment an early 2018 contribution (which Mission had planned to allocate anyway).

Quarterly Funding Request discussion and exploration of possible sources of money: we have three:

- Stephen Ministry space refurbishment - \$450
 - This is not an expense in Properties Board budget.
 - Motion (by Carla, 2nd by Jenny) to do the work stated, with funds coming from 3010 Unrestricted Memorial Funds. Passed.
- Sanctuary Lighting – Range \$500 - \$5000 depending upon type of light bulbs, switches, labor
 - Ongoing problem. Switches and bulbs have a difficult relationship. Changing lightbulbs is difficult – each chandelier has to be lowered with a pulley. Bulbs have to be the same brightness/color. Changing bulbs is estimated to cost \$1700. Discussion, deferring sanctuary lighting but bundling 3130.03 and 3130.05 together into a new line item called “Sanctuary Lighting.”
- New Stoves for Kitchen - \$5900. Stoves plus installation of gas lines
 - Community Life & Growth offers \$2000 of 3150.01 (Special Projects), remainder from 3020 (Unrestricted Carryover)
 - Motion made (by Marty, Carla 2nd) to pursue “cooking with gas!” Passed.

Discussion also of funds spent, but not yet reflected in report. Pross Fund has \$1500 encumbered for AED devices. Motion made (Jean, Marty 2nd, to create line item for AED, as voted upon by Admin. Passed.

Discussion and decision (agreed by acclamation) made follow a policy of creating a new line item when funds are committed to be spent - to make it clear that the \$ is encumbered and we don't, in effect, try to spend it twice. Council committed to spending some time at November meeting to codify this.

Choir robes paid for with Bates, Pross & Payne Memorial funds.

Worship will bring a proposal for audio induction loops for hearing assistance to November discussion.

Stewardship Report: Dave reported. Staff and Finance Board are working with consultants, most likely will go with Horizon, a national organization. In the 4 discussions they have had with dollar amounts attached, the range is \$7500-14,000. Dave has a copy of a book on church fundraising for every council member. Attitudes and mechanisms about raising money have changed considerably from 1973-2013. The number of churches has not changed much, but the number of other non-profits seeking the same dollars has exploded. The plan is to focus

on the number of and ways lives are changed by this place. Ex: the investment of Youth Director salaries, pizzas bought, camp tuition paid is realized on days like Youth Sunday, when we experience that direct impact from our Youth Group members.

Age groups give in different patterns. We need to reach out in different ways to them.

Long-range challenge – the money is here, we need to connect it with the joy of giving... “What is important to you?,” “This matters,” “This is what we’re doing about that.”

Board check-ins:

- **Nominating:** Presents Cheryl Payne (class of 2019) and Dorie Hubbard (class of 2018) for election to the Mission Board (as a motion from a Board, needs no second) Elected unanimously! They have someone who is considering the Vice Moderator position.
- **Finance:** thanks to those Boards who got back to Dave with their 2018 expense budgets
- **Properties:** frustrating – the people who are supposed to repair the Cowan Chapel windows are not responding to email, phone messages and our “window” of weather is closing.
- **CL&G:** Lemonade on the Porch after worship has ended, coffee hour in the parlor to begin! God on the Quad was a great success. The Eclipse trip was just wonderful! Had some scary car trouble on the way back, but all ended well and safely, with a long stay at a local WalMart.
- **Mission & Service:** No bazaar this year. The storage space will be cleaned out and donated. Not sure what the future holds for that, it bears some serious thought. We might consider offering to sponsor peoples’ yard sales for a cut of the profits. What to do about Jean’s wonderful jam? Joan is willing to sell it in the office. We will have a booth/quilt raffle and sponsorship at the Spoonbread Festival. Volunteers needed to staff it.
- **Worship:** seeking volunteers as Worship Leaders, esp our gifted Youth.
- **Nurture & Care:** Mary Lou Wiese is the new chair. Planning to sort out a ride system to medical appointments. N&C is VERY proud of sponsoring the starting of a Stephen Ministry here. First training will be 8-29.

Pastors’ Reports:

- Rev. Rachel: has been supporting great work! God on the Quad, Youth Sunday, Berea Leadership Experience (special thanks to Kim Kobersmith, camp director!), which had 49 kids attend from all Berea’s economic strata. Great community effort of about a dozen different groups & organizations, including the Berea Human Rights Commission, which shall be publicly thanked. Michelle Tooley was honored very well. The Nursery is in its new spot. We received the donation of a new tv, to be installed soon, so nursery staff, and parents who stay with their little ones, can view the service. Seeking more nursery staff members! Pastoral care: deaths of Andy Blyth on 7/27, Loretta Mountjoy on 8/8, Don Robertson 8/27.
- Rev. Kent: GOT MARRIED!! Will be on honeymoon Sept. 1-16. Has conducted funerals, working with Kentucky Council of Churches on Take Back Cheapside. Will send letter of support to military heritage council regarding the moving of Confederate soldier statues out of the public square. Participating in organizing trainings on non-violent protest. Next will be Sept. 5 at Pax Christi Church. Stewardship projects with Dave ongoing. He’s pleased to report that recent visitors have mentioned Union’s very welcoming attitude.

Next meeting Sept 18. Closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan English