

Present: Dave Kobersmith (Church Admin.), Kevin Burke (Comm. Life & Growth), Carla Gilbert (Nominating), Kent Gilbert (Pastor), Marty Hensley (Admin), Laurinda Pool (Finance), Jean Boyce (Clerk), Rachel Small Stokes (Assoc. Pastor), Kent Gilbert (Lead Pastor), Joan English (Recorder), Shirley Carlberg (Bookkpr)

As a quorum was not present - all items for discussion & information only.

Rev. Rachel offered the devotional, a prayer shared at the last Faith Development meeting regarding busy mothers of small children and their difficulty in feeling the presence of God – written in the 16th century. The more things change....

August minutes approved provisionally with correction to “next meeting” date.

Financial Report

Shirley reported & invited questions. She stated that we are about \$14,000 to the good, which is amazing for this point in the calendar year (income usually drops dramatically during the summers).

Nominating Board The Board has someone in mind for Vice Moderator/Church Council Chair. If Boards want to change their number of members, please notify Church Council in December.

Stewardship

Brainstorming continues. It's the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation in October. What does the church need to be today in order to advance God's mission? Idea: door on which to nail OUR theses, to recall Martin Luther's 95 theses of things to reform. There will be 2 mailings – one informational and one invitation, which will target 3 different groups:

- New to church and/or to giving.
- To long-term givers: how their gifts have mattered over time
- To exceptionally generous givers. Also looking to encourage those folks to think of Union Church in estate planning. Goal would be to remove building expenses entirely from the yearly budget – to have a large enough endowed fund to use it exclusively for the building (\$800,000 – 1 million). Plan is to vote on the creation of that fund with \$0 balance in December. Kent may contact remaining members of the Hamilton family and request their permission to roll that fund into it, if possible. Goal would be to preserve the principal, now held in a CD. The endowment's restrictions are difficult. Considering using Edward D. Jones or Bluegrass Community Fund as holder of fund.

Rev. Rachel: asked anyone who'd like to write a paragraph about how Union Church has been in our life, how have lives been changed for the better. Or would anyone speak at worship services in October? Shirley will write something, Kevin offered to speak. She'd like to have a short piece regarding stewardship in every October bulletin (after the 1st, World Communion Sunday). Ideally, we would have some mention of stewardship in bulletins year-round. Like Habitat for humanity Director, and Union's years-long partnership. Martina LeForce, with summer food program, Cheyenne Olson with Sustainable Berea. Dave distributed book on Stewardship/giving: “Not Your Parents' Offering Plate.” Author is one of the consultants we are considering hiring for help.

Reports

- Properties has the gas line installed in the kitchen awaiting new stoves. Cowan Chapel windows will be removed starting Sept. 25. Plain clear glass will be left in their place, repairs to be done off-site.
- Administration has worked on Staff Handbook and Conflict of Interest Policy.
- CL&G planning hayride & bonfire, date to be determined. Susie and Rachel revising newcomers' welcome /meal plan. Date tbd.
- Finance is working on the 2018 budget, Dave reports gratitude for his good results getting estimates from Board chairs. \$31,000 request increase over 2017. Goal is not to have a budget crisis at the end of the year.
- Faith Development programs have all kicked into gear for the year with a wonderful Youth Sunday/Rekindle the Spirit Sunday. Childrens Church began successfully, we have a new nursery. Looking to hire another nursery worker. Looking forward to an Advent All Y'all Faith Day.
- Mission will pay for a booth at the Spoonbread Festival. So far have made \$160 in raffle tickets. They will be sold at worship and WNL until October 8, when the winning ticket will be drawn.
- Nurture & Care worked on revised budget. Stephen Minister training is going very well. They have a retreat this coming Friday, Saturday, Sunday.
- PRB – LaRee had a bad accident and needs to take some time off. Dodie has taken a 3-month break for her health
- Properties didn't meet this month, but Bob Boyce & Dave had a long productive talk/look at the ongoing project list.
- CL&G has had water purifiers installed on the kitchen and office faucets. Dishwasher has been repaired. Working on putting key box downstairs for handicap access door.
- Worship –Nancy Hindman is going to the Terrace for a while to recuperate from surgery. Choir robes have debuted. New lights purchased for music stands. Looking at hearing assistance induction loops. 40th anniversary of organ is coming up, in October. Concert planned for October 30, 4 pm, with special organists. Pastors and Music Director have a planning retreat tomorrow.

Rev. Rachel: Expressed thanks for the 5-year celebration reception. She has presided over 2 funerals since last Church Council meeting: Andy Blyth's and Don Robertson's (Bernice's son). Several church family members have had accidents, please hold in prayer advocacy groups –those helping DACA recipients and removal of confederate statues.

Rev. Kent: returned from a wonderful honeymoon. Mentioned LaRee, Nancy, Dan (friend of Rachel's) dealing with health concerns, Sue Blyth after Andy's death.

Shirley asked if Mission Board is still planning to do a program on their projects on potluck nights? Rachel will find out & report. Will we have an Alternative Giving Christmas event? Sally is acting chair, we should find out if it's on their agenda.

Faith Development does not have a chair, but Jenny Hobson is performing some of those duties. Jenny Bromley is Church Council representative.

Next meeting Oct. 16, Jean will bring the devotional. Closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan English