

Church Council Minutes Union Church, January, 2021

Present: Joan English (Recorder), Dave Kobersmith (Staff), Marty Hensley (Finance), Jennifer Melton (Worship), Carla Gilbert (church member), Kent Gilbert (Pastor), Kim Kobersmith (Nominating), Amy Schill (CL&G), Paul Smithson (Moderator), Jean Boyce (Vice Moderator), Bob Boyce (Properties), Mary Lou Wiese (Nurture & Care), Shirley Carlberg (Book-keeper), Linda Parsons (clerk)

A quorum was present. Rev. Kent offered a prayer to open the meeting. December minutes approved as distributed. Addition to Agenda: report from Shirley on Room in the Inn (RITI).

Finance Report. Shirley reported – We are doing fine financially, still have a surplus - \$355. Shirley has finished the books for 2020, including absolutely everything (5% staff bonuses, \$3000 retained for future sabbaticals). Reports in the Google folder are complete except we don't know the precise value of the endowment as of 12-31-20 just yet. The PPP loan of \$41,000 has been forgiven, and has become a grant. It was not used in 2020, but will be in '21. We won't be eligible to apply for a small business loan in this round of Covid stimulus because (thankfully) we did not show a 25% decrease in revenue in a quarter of 2020. We will revisit the 2021 budget mid-year and correct if needed. W-2s and 1099s have been produced by ADP and Shirley has reviewed them. They are ready to go out to staff/contractors. The internal financial review will happen soon. Question – did the Lambert Fund take a financial “hit” in 2020? Not for the year. It did recoup early-year losses (as did the Organ Fund and Putnam Funds). Lambert Fund is near \$950,000 – up substantially.

For Action:

- **Nominations to the Nominating Board** are the responsibility of Church Council. Kim reported that of the 4 members of the Board, 3 only one (Kim herself) is due to rotate off, and she is willing to serve another term (☺). By consensus, Council empowered Jean to ask Kim Kobersmith to serve another term on the Nominating Board.
- **Nominations for Honorary Lifetime Deacon.** After discussion, it was agreed to ask Gerrie Blanchard, Carla Gilbert, Jenny Bromley and Betty Hibler. Carla and Betty, being present at the meeting, agreed. Jean will speak to Gerrie and Jenny.
- **Date for the Annual Meeting** will be March 21, 3 pm via Zoom.
- **Annual Reports** from Board Chairs and Officers due March 1.

For Discussion:

Room in the Inn for 2021. Shirley reported. After fearing that Berea would not be able to offer housing for homeless persons due to Covid-19, the City of Berea applied for & received a HUD grant. 10 rooms at Creekside Lodge will be used every night through the end of March for individuals, families, or “pods.” 2 volunteers per night are needed to register guests (all Covid precautions will be observed). A coordinator is still needed. Evening meals will be provided. Union Church will subsidize an evening meal every week (Sunday suggested) from a local restaurant. Breakfast provided by Creekside. Per Tony Crachiolo of the Food Bank, shelf stable foods will be given at registration for the next day's lunch. Any willing to help – please contact Shirley.

No update on Communications position. Energies are focused now on the Videographer position and website. Debbonnaire Kovacs has been hired to do writing, and she is making progress.

Board Updates:

- CL&G – question about the after-church Zoom “coffee hour.” Amy and Betsy Whaley are alternating hosting, and they have a good core group from all over the country, including Berea folks, some who've left Berea, and some who are new to us since we've been online.
- FD – working on a Lent Resources At-Home pack. Maria Hartz is doing great work with our families with young kids; and Chris McKenzie & Maggie Park are still Zooming with Youth. “Zoom fatigue” is becoming a factor but, as the new Covid variant is more contagious and the weather is colder, it's harder to get them together in-person safely at all.
- Mission – Betty has been active with the Poor Peoples' Campaign, and is working on Bread for the World Offering of Letters and materials/activities for Lent

- N&C – has not met in person, but are all working – Donna is sending Grief Books, giving gifts to families who have experienced loss (Joan can attest to the love that comes with the gift).
- Properties – windows to be installed in February (approx. 22-25)
- Nominating – meeting next week to assess needs

And then Joan's laptop battery died..... the following is from Dave:

Pastor's report – Kent shared about a number of members dealing with stressful situations and reminded us to keep all in prayer we often don't know when those we see in the zoom are in need. He continues meeting with the Governor and notes reports that vaccinations are going well in KY. We are still working on the new website and he is dealing with some personal health issues.

Betty H. – Shared about Back Bay Mission's new Exec. Director.

Someone asked to receive an update about the Medical Debt Relief and Kent offered a detailed explanation about how folks are selected and will receive a letter by Feb. 1st letting them know of their debt being paid by the churches who worked together on this project. After this is all done each church will receive a report.

Kent prayed us out.

Next meeting February 15, 2021. Betty Hibler will offer the devotional. Funding requests will be considered.

Joan English