

## Church Council Notes Union Church, May 17, 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), Bob Boyce (Properties), Linda Parsons (clerk), Betty Hibler (M&S), Shirley Carlberg (Bookkeeper), Paul Smithson (Moderator), Cheryl Stone (church member), Maria Hartz (Faith Development), Reda Hutton (Admin)

A quorum was present. Our devotional was read by Jennifer Melton from a book of blessings by John O'Donohue on Presence. Question of the Day – name an animal that characterizes you somehow.

### Action Items

**Approval of April Minutes Bob moved, Paul seconded, approved.**

### Funding Requests

**Anthem: “Love Demands” by Mark Hayes.** Mark Hayes is composing a musical piece – vocal and instrumental - for Union Church based on “Love Demands,” to be completed around September. He will retain the copyright, but we can use it whenever/however we choose. The discussion now is – what account does the \$4000 come from?

- **Jennifer moved, Paul seconded, that the Warth memorial fund containing \$915 (3160.09) be spent down to \$0, and the balance to be split between Drake memorial (3120.06) and Pross memorial (3120.05) - \$1542.50 from each. Motion passed.**
- **Paving the parking lot.** Dave reported. We don't have a firm dollar amount yet, but a year ago we were quoted \$17,000. Kettering is being repaved as part of the construction project – the hope is that we can “piggyback” on that. Dave met with the project manager and discussed drainage, property lines in relation to project. Will get a hard figure this week. He used \$20,000 as a placeholder. He is cautiously hopeful that Berea College will see that most of our parking is on their property and they won't charge us very much. They'll address the drainage issues. Might need to pay for topcoat on our property. Discussion of possible funding sources.
  - **Marty moved we approve up to \$20,000 to be removed from Hutchins Fund (1103) to pay for paving the parking lot. Bob 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.**
- **Security Camera System.** Kent – Council previously approved spending a smaller amount, following up now. He and Dave met w/ contractors & found the bid from our alarm company very high. We'll probably go with a local contractor, who did Lakes Funeral Home's system - a combo of surveillance plus a system to remotely open & close doors, with the ability to log on from home if an alarm goes off. Our current hard drive has stopped recording. The most crucial thing is to have a view of front lawn and all entrances. It would be helpful to have views of people approaching office and the ability for Kent & Dave, possibly Bernardo in the Choir Room to have that view - not just at front office screen. Have \$750 set aside. Need add'l \$9250.
  - **Beginning with \$750 in #3130.05 already in-hand, Marty moved, Bob seconded, that Security Cameras be paid for thusly: Payne memorial (3120.12); \$50; Stewart Hindman memorial (3120.11); \$555; miscellaneous memorial (3120.02); some or all of \$1,632.20; Pross memorial (3120.05) balance of this fund after anthem; Lastly Drake memorial (3120.06) balance to finish project. Motion passed.**

**Set Congregational Meeting Date – July 25 agreed upon by acclamation.** We'll look at the 2021 budget and get a report on membership and meeting/voting methods (anticipating some using of Zoom for meetings going forward); changes to constitution/bylaws from Task Force

### Discussion

**Finance Report.** Doing great on budget. Normally we are behind, but we're about \$10,000 to the good. People are continuing to give & there's also been very generous mission giving. We haven't yet received our annual Lambert Fund distribution – that's usually June/July. The Lambert Fund totaled over \$1 million at end of March. This is what we want to accomplish w/Stewart/Hindman, blessing into the future.

**Authorized signers on Thrivent Account.** The Constitution states authorized signers shall be Treasurer, Chair of Finance Board, Moderator, CC Council Chair. Finance Board has been seeking an investment to get better return on Organ Fund since CDs are not getting much return. We can move money to an instrument that might return 3-5% annually with Thrivent. It's a good idea to have Dave SEE the account, but not be an authorized signer. Thrivent insists he be an authorized signer to see the account activity. All ok'd that Dave take on that role.

**Revised Budget.** Shirley passed out info, most just fine with where it stands. Administration and Properties Board Budgets need updating. No major changes so far. We'll vote upon it at the July 25 meeting.

### **Opening Guidelines**

**Worship** – starting back in-person May 23. Jennifer reported for Worship Board. Latest guidance – all be masked. OK to sing, but with masks. The center section will be for those vaccinated and comfortable not being socially distanced. Options for those who want distance – side sections & balcony. Masks will be offered. When worship is over, we will guide people outside. Teresa and Jennifer will excuse by row. Can greet and visit outdoors, no food or drink offered. Kent plans to email a “What to Expect” document Wednesday. People will be asked to arrive earlier than usual. We will not be passing the peace. Cameras, cables, tvs will be in the sanctuary for our live broadcast. Other thing to be addressed– Kent's Covid exhaustion. Marty reminded everyone that the tech crew is doing 5-10 times the amount of work before the service & to please catch them AFTER the service to visit – not before. In mid-June, the governor anticipates lifting all restrictions.

**Maria reported on how our young families are feeling.** We are not going to have Childrens Church during the summer, which is our custom. Nursery will be open only for parents/guardians to hang with the kids. An attendant will be available to clean, playground will be available. Faith Dev. will offer single-use activity bags, in lieu of the kids' worship center. Will reevaluate when school year starts. How are parents feeling with taking kids to church when adults remove their masks? Mixed responses. Families might stay home a bit more, will address that at next meeting. Overwhelmingly, people want to do what is best for all. We are definitely wearing masks for now, especially to protect kids.

That evening, we can gather outside at a picnic at Kent & Diana's from 5-7 pm. Howard Carlberg offered to do a maypole at Kent's house. BYO food, drinks, chairs

**Small Groups** – Kent talked with AA groups & our fully vaccinated Boards. After the 23<sup>rd</sup> worship service we will start to make space available. We've bought air filtration systems - HEPA 13 system to circulate air several times an hour. Reasonably safe to let people gather. If fully vaccinated, it's ok to meet without masks. If not sure, please wear masks. Boards can start talking about meeting in person. CC – let's meet by Zoom one more time in June and discuss meeting in person then.

### **Pride Ideas for CL&G**

Amy asked for ideas/suggestions. The last weekend in June is the anniversary of Stonewall. Mission & Service will make a Justice Candle honoree selection Marty & Laura Nagle do free anonymous HIV testing & would be glad to come do that. Carla has resources regarding coming out.

**54321 Review and Staffing Discussion** - we need communications strategy; and Pastoral Assistance moved higher up the list. Dave & Kent talked to financial consultant. Communication piece is something we probably need a staff person to help with. 4 vital skill sets: Spiritual Formation, Volunteer Coordination & Support, Communication, Stewardship & Fundraising. Maybe talk to Boards, put back on agenda for next month? Agreed. Kent affirmed that we have done an amazing job on these goals (2 years, plus or minus 😊)!

## **Coordination**

### Board Updates or Highlights

- Admin
- CL&G
- Faith Dev
- Finance
- M&S – their focus is not just about money. We have not been able to DO service trips. Jenny Bromley reported great progress on a solar power water system by CoCoDA, a Central American organization that Paul, Jenny, and Deborah Payne have worked with closely. Our Valle Verde delegation worked on a community center w/St Clare,

and raised \$20,000. M&S would like Union to commit to raising \$2-4000 by April/May 2022, when the water system is due to be installed. Maybe send a delegation to the community? The Board plans some education & involvement of the congregation re: solar power, climate change

- N&C
- Pastoral Relations
- Properties
- Worship – asked Admin & Properties to help with ushering so there are people to answer questions if any, lots of help visible. Come at 9:30 to help. Can they wear an identifying badge? Yes, will think of a way to identify themselves as ushers.
- Nominating – an Admin Board member has resigned

### **Pastor's Report**

**Most covered elsewhere.** We have pastoral needs coming up in terms of funeral (currently 7 between now & October). Continuing spiritual needs – some of what we deferred is “coming home.” One week in July he goes to General Synod, virtually but all week. The Worship Planning team generated list of those with resources in case Kent's health. Plan B.

### **Announcements**

- News items
- Next scheduled consideration of Funding Requests – August, 2021
- Next Meeting June 21, Devotion: Carla  
(Reda not voting member)

Rev. Kent offered prayer to end the meeting.

Joan English