

## Church Council Notes Union Church, August 15, 2022

**Present:** Jean Boyce (Moderator), Joan English (Recorder), Dave Kobersmith (Staff), Marty Hensley (Finance), Kent Gilbert (Pastor), Kim Kobersmith (Nominating), David Jones (Staff), Shirley Carlberg (Bookkeeper), Bob Boyce (Properties), Linda Parsons (Clerk), Carla Gilbert (M&S, Pastoral Associate), Donna Lovell (Admin), Betsy Whaley (CL&G), Joan Moore (FD)

A quorum was present. Our devotional was offered by David – a poem called The Teacher by [Michael Kelly Blanchard](#), a poet, storyteller. Question of the day – what’s your favorite place to watch the sunrise/sunset?

### Action Items

**Minutes:** Approval of July minutes. So moved by Shirley, seconded by Betsy. Approved.

### Nomination Affirmations:

Debbonnaire Kovacs to Pastoral Relations Board

Paul Smithson to Mission and Service

Susan Schmied to Faith Development

All affirmed by acclamation!

Dodie Murphy taking a leave of absence from PRB. Should she be replaced, or do we expect her back? Kent will follow up.

Nurture & Care still needs member(s).

### Discussion

**Finance Report.** The new Budget was approved, and is updated into the 2022 Budget vs. Actuals report in the Google drive here [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mbvxuoM5vnAv0u3SEdlr2b\\_JLcuAv7gm](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mbvxuoM5vnAv0u3SEdlr2b_JLcuAv7gm) . Endowment Report updated. Our endowments have lost about \$50,000 in value due to the stock market falling. We’re currently in slightly better shape on the 2022 Budget, about \$10,000 behind.

**Emergency Succession Plan report.** In process.

**Revisit COVID guidelines.** CDC shifted has guidelines; Madison County is in the “yellow.” Dave reported. Is it time to think about it again? Joan will call the groups we moved to different rooms and invite them to re-occupy previous spots. Kim will review the current guidelines with Jennifer and Kent. Betsy expressed concerned that we will lose folks if we are enforcing too stringently. We need to rebuild our community and not be too restrictive unless there’s a new variant. Numbers have not rebounded. Will lack of masking keep some people from coming? Can we do data gathering, 4 or 5 questions? Last survey was some 16 months ago. Bob likes the use of “encourage,” rather than “require” masks. Kent will construct & send a survey addressing as many of these points as possible. Paper copies will be available.

### Coordination

Donna reported a new policy – Admin Board is going to review the staff handbook every July. Only change this time was within “Evaluation” – added a date that all shall be evaluated annually by June 30. They’re also putting together a Policy & Procedure Manual. Looking at editing/proof-reading. Any takers? Google has a good formatting tool. Dave updated Accounting procedures – Finance Bd and Financial Sec will review. Shirley will be glad to proofread. It will need to be re-formatted, seeking a volunteer.

### Board Updates or Highlights

- Admin -
- CL&G – and FD are collaborating on a fellowship project – “dinners for 8” this fall
- FD –
- Finance -

- M&S – had productive meeting today. The presentation on the Mission Trip will be Aug 21, in the Community Room, bring your lunch. M&S will provide dessert and beverage. Dorothy Chao will be visiting from AZ. Justice Candle – ideas welcome. Discussion of disaster-relief fund plans, including a \$3000 grant from the UC. Discussion of giving gift cards as a way to help. M&S knows of a Wish List from teachers; libraries need funding. Also will contribute to Bethlehem church; Samuel’s Kids; Urban Farm/Sustainable Berea; Appalachian Crisis Fund. Church in Blackie, Buckhorn, school in Perry County. Betsy advised a shift to donating to Community Centers from Appalshop & Hindman Settlement School & the like. Although that need is as great, they have a fund-raising mechanism in place already. In Letcher County, 100 homes were completely destroyed, add’l 500 unlivable. Some houses were not destroyed, but the residents have no access out or in. Thousands of access bridges are washed out, which county will not replace. Kim wondered if a work group might be helpful when it will be safe and an actual help, rather than hindrance to other workers. Bob reported on a friend’s son who went on-site unprepared and came back sick, volunteers will need gloves & tetanus shots. Currently, there is no infrastructure. Work groups might be most helpful 2-3 months later. Kent has been in touch with Hindman Settlement School. Jen and Amy did some on-site help.
- Nominating –
- N&C – good turnout for ice cream social. Weather held (mostly). Thank you to Betsy, David & Carla for the Kiteck service. Beautiful flowers from Bob.
- Properties –
- Worship –
- Endowment -

**Pastor’s Report** Looking at fall, working on programming. Sept. 8 is the 100<sup>th</sup> year of our building’s dedication. Planning a community event in October. Bob found photos in archive. Had thought to open cornerstone & see if there’s anything in there. Work continues on the sound booth, looking beautiful. Thanks to Kelly Mehler, Jeff Hutton & Howard Carlberg, the structure will include a butcher block from Berea College’s old Science Building. Doug Haley helped, they have exactly recreated the woodwork. Should be functional in September. We have about 2/3 of the equipment. Door locks have been changed to a code/fob system; including the lower door into Room 101. We can open the lower door with the same system of camera and doorbell. Kent will send out the PRB survey. Will bring back to Council in September to discuss how to report. Will be working on Stewardship as a Fall priority. Unclear what will happen with women’s health. Kentucky – almost none of the regional counties have an obstetrician as a consequence of repeal of Roe v. Wade. It’s not currently illegal to move states to get care. It is not unlikely that there will be a “Texas” type law about suing someone if suspected of seeking care. Kent & Diana had a great time away (as did Thea).

### **Announcements**

- Next scheduled consideration of Funding Requests – November, 2022 (explanation of why they are done quarterly)
- Next Meeting September 19, Linda will offer devotional.

Meeting ended at 8:15

Joan English