

## Church Council Notes Union Church, October 17, 2022

**Present:** 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), Jean Boyce (Moderator)

After a delightful potluck, the meeting started at 7, with some Council members in-person, and some via Zoom. A quorum was present. Our devotional was offered by Carla, [written by John Edgerton](#), a UCC pastor. Question of the day – what is one hope you have for Union Church in the next year? More engagement, fun, balanced budget, more people in the building on Sundays, in choir, and at other times of the day/week.

### Action Items

**Minutes:** Approval of September minutes. Shirley reported several typos. Minutes passed with the proviso Joan will fix them (this was done on 10-18). So moved by Jean, seconded by Betsy. Approved.

### Discussion

**Finance Report.** Shirley reported. At this point in the year, after the Budget adjustment this summer, we are almost \$18,000 in the red. That's better than the earlier projection of \$40,000 at this point in the year. We're likely to end the year in the red – about \$15-20,000. We do have resources to draw upon. Dave stated that we have not yet paid out the 40% of Lambert fund distribution received this summer. The Lambert Fund was established by Warren Lambert & is held at Hilliard Lyons.

From Union Church's Financial Policy for background:

*3. Undesignated Bequests Support the Whole Church: Undesignated bequests support the mission of the total church, led by the Holy Spirit and discerned by the prayers and work of the congregation. Many former members and friends often name the church as the recipient of an undesignated bequest. So that such bequests may help not only the immediate needs, mission, and program of the church, but may also support the long-term goals, in general it is recommended that undesignated bequests other than pledges to the general budget and worship offerings be used in the following way: at least 20% to be placed in the perpetuating funds each under the direction of one of the boards, as follows:*

*4% in the Properties Board Project Fund, to be used by the Properties Board to develop special projects.*

*4% in the Leadership Development Fund, used by the Faith Development Board to empower church lay leadership in every area of church life by such means as workshops, retreats, outside speakers, etc.*

*4% in the Worship and Art Fund to be used by the Worship Board to provide sanctuary furnishings, interpretive art work, and other enrichments to worship and congregational life; and*

*4% in the Mission Outreach Fund to be used by the Mission Board to empower projects witnessing to social justice and peace, evangelism, and humanitarian relief.*

*4% in the Community Life and Growth Development Fund, to be used by the Community Life and Growth Board to develop special projects.*

*In addition, at least 20% is to be placed in the Endowment Fund. Church Council shall determine which "sleeve" of the Endowment Fund will receive the gift, subject to any limitations and restrictions existing at the time of receipt.*

*The remaining 60% of the bequest will be used as recommended by the Church Finance Board and approved by the Church Council. Recommendations may include, but are not limited to further dividing the monies among the funds above, expending the funds for new or existing projects, using the money for general budget support or investing the funds in the Development Fund (see Article III, Section 4 a on page **Error! Bookmark not defined.**). **In the event of some extreme or overriding need the Church Finance Board may recommend that 100% of the undesignated gift be directed to meet this need.***

Finance Board can suspend that policy as stated just above and will make a recommendation of buckets of money to use to cover the deficit which may (or may not) include the recommendation to suspend distribution for the year.

Expenses are going fine – no person or Board is overspending. We have money in the bank, money in endowment. Shirley will update reports for end of quarter and place them in the Google folder for next CC meeting.

Big item of concentration is the 2023 budget. Dave sent Budget vs Actual statements to all Boards for their input and asks for responses by Nov. 8. Then Shirley will put together a Budget, heavily based on 2019 (last full year before Covid), present to Finance Board and then present to Church Council after Finance makes adjustments.

**Budget Meeting will be Dec 13, 3 pm.**

## Coordination

### Board Updates or Highlights

- Admin -
- CL&G – about 25 have responded to the Gatherings invitation, a good combination of those willing to serve as hosts, and participants. They'll assign people to groups of 7-9. Shirley signed up to host and provide food, and has additionally offered her home as a venue if another host/facilitator needs space.  
Reminder about the potluck after church on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Pumpkin painting; scavenger hunt, costumes welcome.
- FD –
- Finance -
- M&S – the silent auction has moved back a week, due to some communication difficulties with the auction house. Dates available are Nov. 6, 7, 8, 9. The \$3000 grant from Kentucky Council of Churches (*is that source right? – Joan*) was matched by Mission, so there are 60 \$100 gift cards Betsy will bring to agency partners on 10-18. Hoping to plan a trip to New Orleans to Ben Groth's church. Samuel's Kids is struggling with a good way to get funds and for us to give funds. Kent has some acquaintances working on facilitating that. Deborah Payne is visiting Uganda soon and will bring gifts if we'd like her to.
- Nominating –
- N&C –
- Properties – check their minutes - the Board is very busy, lots of projects!
- Worship –
- Endowment -

**Pastor's Report** Health continues to improve. His CPAP machine is helping immensely with increasing his oxygen levels, but he does still have occasional bad days. Many church friends and members are in our prayers. Doug Hindman is still in St. Joe Main with pneumonia, Maurice Hibbard has had a heart attack and is in the in VA hospital awaiting treatment (the trouble is that his kidneys are fragile and treating the heart may exacerbate that), Susan Shmied broke her ankle badly in 3 places & is seeking a specialist, Dottie Lovell, recovering from back surgery, is up and walking. Dodie Murphy is really sick w/ no diagnosis yet. Church finances are a big concern. We'll have a financial campaign in November, after the election. Financially, we're back to the challenges we faced before the pandemic. A team of Betsy, Dave, Donna and Kent will meet next Monday to talk about strategies, looking both back and forward 3-5 years.

In honor of his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service at Union & acknowledging our shared origins, Berea College will make Rev. Kent an honorary alumnus on Nov. 20.

Jean & Bob announced that they will move to Knoxville to a spot on Bob's brother's property to help with his wife, Patsy's care through cancer and with grandchildren. Likely not before late spring 2023. Gratitude for their years of joyful service expressed, and tears that we will miss them terribly.

Betsy – not a church function, but all are welcome to a planned Hymns, Hops & Healing idea, maybe at RebelRebel. Rev. Kent offered his & Diana's home. Watch for details.

### Announcements

- Next scheduled consideration of Funding Requests – November, 2022
- Next Meeting November 21, Kent will offer the devotional.

Meeting ended at 8:00; Kent prayed us out.

Joan English