**Church Council Minutes Union Church, June 19, 2023**

**Present:** Joan English (Recorder), Dave Kobersmith (Staff), Kim Kobersmith (Vice Moderator), Marty Hensley (Finance), Kent Gilbert (Pastor), Steve Gowler (Moderator), David Jones (Staff), Donna Lovell (Admin), Jeff Hutton (Properties), Linda Parsons (Clerk), Betty Sarafin (CL&G)

Linda offered our devotional, from Devotions by Mary Oliver *On Meditating: Sort Of*

Question of the evening: Favorite thing to do on a rainy day. Lots of readers and nappers!

**Action Items**

**Minutes:** Approval of May minutes. Linda moved to approve, Betty seconded, minutes approved.

**Date for Summer Congregational Meeting:** We usually do a mid-year budget check-up. Suggestion - August 13. Agreed by consensus

**Date for 100 year Celebration:** After calendar checks & discussion, Sept. 24 was agreed on by consensus.

**Discussion**

**Finance Report:** Dave reported. Reports in Google folder. Dave sent each Board its part of the budget for review. At the end of May our deficit was $50,000 for the year and $18,000 of that in just May. Admin Board is exploring how is staffing a factor. Finance is working on how will it be covered. Dave directed the group to the Statement of Financial Position. We have a gift of the Transformation Fund (gift from family foundation) with approx $83,000 that could cover deficit. Or the congregation could choose NOT to put 4% of our yearly distribution of the Lambert Fund into the 5 different funds as directed by our [Financial Policy](https://drive.google.com/file/d/12Q__F6ZSITnUazvEcCbP4jstWFlvMx1k/view?usp=drive_link). We can, as a church, decide to suspend that policy for 2023.

In the end, $111,000 from various line items can be used to cover deficit in 2023 – BUT that will not solve our problems in the future. Kent stated that the key metric is that our monthly expenditures are higher than our monthly income. Faithful givers are continuing to give, generously. We’ve lost some of our members/givers through death and moving. We have some fewer givers, newer smaller givers. We had several maintenance issues that we HAD to address. Can we look at those unforeseen maintenance events as expenditures outside the budget and recalculate? How would that look? Dave invited Board reps – and anyone – to address questions about budget process to him & he’s glad to look at budgets with chairs. We need those back this month, or by July 10 latest so Finance can review.

Donna asked - by the Congregational meeting Aug 13, will there be a proposed plan of action? Kim responded that on Weds (June 21) she, Kent and Steve Gowler are meeting to come up with the beginnings of a plan.

Kent anticipates some form of a significant fund drive. Grants are still “out there” and the hope is for dollars to come in for a fundraising package.

**Deficit Budget:** Questions from Kim

\*Is your Board taking any steps on this?

Admin – Donna reported. Going thru job descriptions w/ Dave’s help with an eye to making sure the job descriptions are tight, and no there’s no duplication. In July, they will look at budget. Sally Hindman offered to look at the job descriptions to look for overlap & is doing so - Dave will reach out to her.

Grants Committee – one of the consultants we interviewed said we are over-staffed, which started Admin Board’s work.

\*Do you have any suggestions or considerations for us? Dave – likes the idea of someone knows what the moving pieces are. He’s associated with Finance, Admin, Grant. Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Pastor are forming a leadership consultation council for action

**Coordination**

**Board Updates or Highlights**

* Ad hoc committee on Building Celebration -
* Admin -
* CL&G -
* FD –
* Finance -
* M&S – working on hands-on experiences. Kent has asked them to have 4 or 5 targeted experiences to offer at our August 16 Wednesday event: MOLO Village tour in Louisville; RITI; Creek Cleanup and environmental projects to show Care of Creation
* Nominating –
* N&C –
* PRB –
* Properties – The refinishing work is happening on the floor!
* Worship – Kent will be away July 2 at General Synod and David Jones will preach. The orchestra has had a good experience playing on the floor & we’ll work toward keeping that going. We’ve already gotten question/offers on some concerts; Celtic Festival.
* CL&G - working on Aug 16th kick-off, coming up with a series of things for people come to. They’ll highlight fall events. On hold because of health issues – vespers or compline Sunday afternoon, evening service of about ½ an hour in the Chapel. Meditative and musical, not focused on preaching. Hoping to capture the energy something similar to the morning meditation. This will of course be open to wider community.
* Endowment -

**Pastor’s Report:** Very glad to be able to travel & grateful for opportunity to go to Japan, where he organized 2 High School and one Middle School exchange experience; and an official delegation of adults. He’ll attend General Synod next week will be an opportunity for connecting w/resources, maybe discover some consultants. There is an “information marketplace” for all areas of church operation/life. He’ll officiate at the funeral for his cousin last weekend in July. Thea will have puppies at the end of August! Dough Hindman has elected to have a feeding tube for nourishment, which will enable him to undergo the surgery to drain fluid from his brain, with the hope of restoring of cognitive and physical function; Joyce Mosher is at Telford, awaiting test results; John Stanley has had a stroke, receiving treatment. Kim asked for a report of the Fee Memorial Day event – great time - 20 or so people attended, starting at 11, cleaned the stones, told Fee stories, had some snacks. The Fee family may make it to the centennial celebration. June 14 Potluck was a success, about 30-35. Had a good number at Worship Board’s event training to be a Worship Leader. David’s group – talked about fall offerings as we start back with WNL. Lots of good ideas, meeting needs in community, starting groups to do that, learning opportunities. Sue PB would like to start a group for single (mostly) - Conversation Café to meet at church, probably in the Parlor. If you’ve got an idea for being together, let Kent or David know. Lorilyn is interested in having virtual coffee hour after church. Kent will follow up. It can be done fairly easily.

**Announcements**

* Next scheduled consideration of Funding Requests – August, 2023
* Next Meeting July 17.  Joan will do devotional

 Meeting ended at 8:00 pm, with prayer by Rev. Kent.

Joan English