**Church Council Minutes Union Church, July 17, 2023**

**Present:** Joan English (Recorder), Dave Kobersmith (Staff), Kim Kobersmith (Vice Moderator), Robert Rorrer (Bookkeeper), Marty Hensley (Finance), Kent Gilbert (Pastor), David Jones (Staff), Linda Parsons (Clerk), Betty Sarafin (CL&G), Jennifer Melton (Worship), Jeff Hutton (Properties), Grace McKenzie (FD), guests Nan Gravel & Sally Hindman (Grants Team)

Joan offered our devotional, by Sheenagh Pugh *Sometimes*

Question of the evening: Favorite church-related memory?

**Action Items**

**Minutes:** Approval of June minutes. After correction of a typo Charlie moved to approve, Linda seconded, minutes approved.

**Approve Grant Committee request to Foundation:** Grant Committee. Sally Hindman & Nan Gravel attended to answer any questsions. They’ve been working with a larger team, which includes Dave, Music Director Bernardo Scarambone and Kent to track down grants. Church Council is asked to affirm the [letter](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/164uJy6GIxIwA6XS3h5W8DfH2mLL7dQdV) they intend to send to a Foundation (anonymous), which is in the July CC Folder – organized in 4 sections:

Section 1, Consultant engagement - Generis contract selection

Section 2, Communications/Development Director - Generis implementation

Section 3, Kitchen Manager - Generis implementation

Section 4, Cost Estimate

In June Union Church was invited to apply for a grant that helps progressive churches, and here is the result. Proposal contains ideas we think will help us achieve new levels of sustainability, and what will advance the mission, empower the congregation.

Finance Board is absolutely in support. Reminder that approving the grant proposal doesn’t mean we will get the money, it just means we will send the proposal. Questions? Kim suggested we affirm the grant proposal by acclamation. All agreed unanimously.

Kent reported on a Department of Energy grant on energy efficiency, info from Interfaith Power & Light. We’d put up 20% on a project, the grant coverts 80%, which can come from other grantors.

Properties Board did some brainstorming on “shovel-ready” projects & has a good list, including thermal leaky doors, windows, insulating paints, lighting of Cowan. Grant could not be cannot be used for solar, hot water of heat pumps. Kent would love affordable battery storage to draw energy at our peak usage to save on demand charges.

**Discussion**

**Finance Report:** Charlie reported. Reports in Google folder & referred Council to the Budget vs Actuals doc thru June 30. We were $12,000 under in June. As previously agreed to by Church Council, the Lambert transfer was made to cover larger deficit. Still have a $22,000 deficit thru June.

**Revised Budget review:** Charlie reported. This should be an Action Item, Finance Board asks Church Council to affirm Revised Budget before sending to congregation to vote upon Bottom line – changes of about $7000 red. Proposed - $31,000 for the year thru December.

Changes made –

* increased $$ of plate offering, likely because the offering plate is back to being passed, post-Covid.
* 4202 cut – Amazon Smile is discontinued.
* Flowers line item increased. Facebook fundraising income decreased.
* Maintenance line item decreased
* Dave reminded the group that we have not has a full year of Youth Group Assistant so, although we look to have a surplus, the dollar amount is correct for revised budget.

This will go to congregation August 13, 3 pm. Greg Lakes will report.

This doesn’t need a second since the motion comes from a Board. Do we affirm presenting this revised budget to the congregation for vote? Motion passes with one abstention.

**Budget Deficit Group:** Kim reported. She, Steve Gowler and Rev. Kent (Leadership Team) met and the following list is their ideas for consideration. The first 2 were just addressed by Nan & Sally. 3rd item - Kim, Kent, Dave will communicate to the congregation on Aug 13. The final 3 points are in the mix of discussion. All are welcome to be involved – call Kim.

* Grants Committee
* Fundraising Consultant
* Communicating to Congregation on August 13
* Increase Paid Building usage
* Increase membership and involvement
* Reduce budget for 2024, looking at staffing

**Coordination**

**Board Updates or Highlights**

* Ad hoc committee on Building Celebration -
* Admin -
* CL&G -
* FD – Grace reported the candidate for Youth Director has taken another position. We will advertise again. Boards, please get the word out. Grace & Chris are not prepared to NOT have Youth Group happen. Suggestion to use Indeed for advertising position, Facebook Boost post. David will boost on Facebook and Indeed. FD will meet on Thursday. Youth Group worked with KY Refugee Ministries and had a great trip.
* Finance -
* M&S – Carla reported. Mission still wants to do a fundraiser for RITI. They are looking at a fundraising gala in late September-October, our silent auction will coordinate with that. Hoping to have a mission trip for adults, may go to New Orleans w/Emmanuel Baptist Church, maybe Back Bay Mission
* Nominating –
* N&C – Carla reported/thanked for the wonderful work done on Joyce Mosher’s service – the memorial and coordination of food. Continue to deliver grief bags and quarterly grief books. Stephen Ministry – looking at bringing in 2 more Stephen Leaders. Could we offer Stephen Ministry training on a Wednesday Night? Yes, but need Leaders trained first.
* PRB –
* Properties –
* Worship –
* CL&G – Burger Bash went well, nice turnout. Thanks to all who worked on the Bash! Joan will put a note on kitchen counters asking to clear off clutter. Next big event is August 16 – Community event! Reminder that when you share or like on FB, it improves our algorithm
* Endowment –
* BLE – started today, had about 45 kids, at the Quaker Meeting House. KET came out and will be on the 6 pm news Tuesday. Going great!

**Pastor’s Report:** Lots been done looking after our members who suffered losses. Joyce Mosher’s family, Betty Sarafin, Gail Wolford. Doug Hindman is doing much better after surgery. Has a lot of transportation needs. Alva has what she needs at the Terrace & her items in 101 can go to Goodwill. WNL meals and networking coming up. Want to create a lot of small groups – orchestra, dance band, choir, bridge. We are out of practice of being in community. Annriette Stolte had a fall and broke 6 ribs. Kent talked to her, she’d would like cards & calls to cell phone.

There’s a new president starting at Berea College. The church has given the past Berea College presidents a small gift. Kent could use some ideas. We have wood from remodeling projects – maybe a plaque from old pew wood, a sculpture? She will be in town very soon & Kent will send greetings. We would have opportunity to present our gift at faculty convo, August 20

**Announcements**

* Next scheduled consideration of Funding Requests – August, 2023
* Next Meeting August 21.  Charles Hoffman will do devotional

 Meeting ended with prayer by Rev. Kent.

Joan English