**Church Council Minutes Union Church, March 18, 2024**

**Present:** Joan English (Recorder), Dave Kobersmith (Staff), Kim Kobersmith (Vice Moderator), Jeff Hutton (Properties), Steve Gowler (Moderator), Carla Gilbert (M&S and Staff), Steve Bolster (Pastoral Relations), Sally Hindman (Properties), Donna Lovell (Admin), Linda Parsons (Clerk), Charles Hoffman (Finance), David Jones (FD and CL&G, Staff)

**Devotional** – Charles Hoffman read from Howard Thurman book’s book “Jesus and the Disinherited” - Island of Peace in One’s Soul.

**Question of the evening:**  What church affiliations/denominations were part of the religion of your childhood?

**Action Items**

**Minutes:** Approval of February minutes. Sally moved to approve, Linda seconded, minutes approved.

**Finance Report:** Charlie. Good news – we are less behind than we were at this point last year. $4900 (16%) deficit now at this point in the year. Grant (Equity) Budget has been split off from the Operational Budget for clarity, since some line items (Kitchen Mgr, Video Production staff, Open Table, others do not come out of the yearly budget. Carla – expressed gratitude for the inclusion of Endowment Report in the Annual Report.

**Announcement on Director of Development & Congregational Engagement**: Search Committee of Rev. Kent, Patti Smithson, Tim Monroe and Nancy Adams read and absorbed 27 applications, of which 10 were good candidates, they interviewed 5, and had our Generis consultant join in the interview of the final 2 and hired Jessi Montgomery. She’s currently Director of Development of a KY River Foothills-like organization in London and will do this approx.. half-time job in addition. Her entire career has been in fundraising. Question of how the position was advertised - with Indeed.com and internally (bulletins, Monday announcements). Patti Smithson will be on a committee to help Jessi learn F1Go and our other systems.

**Update on Insurance:**  Update on meeting with Berea College. Kent, Dave and Steve G met with Jeff Amburgey, who works with Berea College’s insurance and also w/ his church’s insurance. Jeff asked those 2 agents to work with us. Berea College’s company quoted $28,000 on property & contents (deductible of $25,000 and that $ amount differs depending on the event) and may get us another; the other from Jeff’s church will do a visit soon and decide whether or not to give us quote. 2024 Budget amount was $16,000; of which we have spend $4000 on liability). The large insurance expense will require congregational approval. Carla suggests we look into bundling the liability and property policies.

**What do we need to be thinking about in 2024?**

* 2024 deficit is the big one, let’s be mindful of our discussion of the shrinking it every year
* Lilly Grant proposal from PRB, we’ll need a group to work on the church’s end
* Fall – help to arrange for Kent’s leave in the spring of 2025 (money has been set aside for this)

Thank you to CC members who are rotating off: Jennifer Melton, Linda Parsons, Steve Gowler

**Coordination**

**Board Updates or Highlights**

* Admin
* CL&G -
* FD –
* Finance -
* M&S –
* Nominating – Kim was so grateful to the people who said “yes” when asked to serve, and pleased that people are coming back, choir & orchestra growing, more people in the pews
* N&C – no one on for class of 2027
* PRB –
* Properties – many ongoing projects. Dave remarked that Properties Board done a good job helping the congregation keep up the building and having good policies in place. This helps us with insurance companies
* Worship
* CL&G –

**Announcements**

* Chocolate for Directory photos – project needs to be finished
* Next scheduled consideration of Funding Requests – May, 2024
* Next meeting – April 15

 Meeting ended 7:45 with prayer

Joan English