**Church Council Minutes Union Church, August 19, 2024**

Present: Dave Kobersmith (Staff), Kim Kobersmith (Vice Moderator), Jeff Hutton (Properties), Steve Bolster (Pastoral Relations), Charles Hoffman (Endowment), David Jones (Program Coordinator, Staff), Maureen Spencer (Clerk), Patti Smithson (Finance), Donna Lovell (Admin), Carla Gilbert (Pastoral Assoc), Betty Sarafin (CL&G), Joan English (Recorder)

Question of the evening: What’s a special birthday celebration or tradition?

Devotional: Kim Kobersmith read *To Expand Your Imagination, Get Curious*

**Action Items**

**Minutes:** Approval of July minutes and Approval of the email 2024 Budget revision vote. OK to bundle these two? Agreed. **Carla moved to approve, Maureen seconded, minutes and amendment to 2024 budget action approved.**

**Finance Education Moment, pt. 1:** Kim thought Council members might like an overview of reports/how to interpret them and we’ll have a short explanation of each over the next couple of months. Dave led the discussion, beginning with how to find reports on the Google drive. Any trouble or resistance to use Google? Pls speak to Dave, Kent or Kim. The focus tonight was on Statement of Financial Position and where our Financial Policy directs undesignated bequests, specifically the very generous gift from Sally Zimmerman’s estate. Everyone should know how such a gift is directed and that specific discussion will follow. Monthly reports are:

* Bud vs Act is the 2024 Budget Report
* Bud vs Act Grants 2024 is the Grants Budget
* Fin Pos 2024 is the report of Financial Position; paper copies distributed. This is a snapshot of one moment in time.

Statement of Financial Position lists Assets & Liabilities

**Assets** are monies the church can use; **Liabilities and Equity** includes credit card charges which are not paid just yet

**Negative Balance in Open Table Line Item** 3150.02 Open Table is in the negative by $1800. Dave presented a funding request. Several sources of possible funds shared: Transformation Fund (3050), 2020’s Development Grant (3070), Memorial Funds (3010, 3110s), Church Council has some discretionary monies, Mission & Service also an appropriate source. CL&G Special Projects is a possibility too, that can add to the line item. The 2-year grant is in place for one more (program) year. It’s anticipated that we’ll spend more this year because many more people are coming. Long-range goal is to get grants. Very very successful community-builder. People have put in $6400 in the basket, which is great.

Tonight: we need to authorize replenishing the line item up to $0. About $2000 needed. Funds Church Council controls and can direct are 3050, 3070, or Memorials 3010, 3120.02

Are we looking to find funds to 0 out open table or seek a stable amount for remainder of program year? The first, right now. Want to bring up to $0 for the year. Dave suggests going a bit over $0 to $2000.

**Decision was to move $112 from 3010 and $2215.00 from 3120.02 into Open Table 3150.02 to bring to a positive balance of $400**. **Carla so moved, Donna seconded. Motion passed.**

**Zimmerman Memorial**

Sally Zimmerman’s (3120.04) incredibly generous gift was accepted last meeting, and we agreed to follow the Financial Policy, so the bequest shall be distributed like so:

* 20% (4% each) to the 5 standing Funds: Worship & Arts, Leadership Development, Mission & Service, Properties and Community Life & Growth.
* 20% to our Endowment. There are 3 areas, or “sleeves” that we can deposit into: Undesignated, Properties, Mission. Church Council decides how much goes into each sleeve.
* Remaining 60% is directed by Church Council
* Each Fund will have just a bit over $10,000 deposited into it, and it’s each Board’s decision on how to use (no need to consult w/Church Council). 3140.01Leadership Development Fund. Any person who wants to have any kind of Leadership Development – Church mgmt. software training, Stephen Ministers, bringing in people for leading retreats, Youth Leaders’ training – that money can be used. If a Board wants to be better educated about something, it’s for that purpose as well. David J – there’s an application people can fill out to apply.

Church Council decided to put 20% into the Endowment – but needs to decide which fund (sleeve) of the endowment? Line item 3125 In-Faith Endowment Fund has 3 sleeves. Mission, Unrestricted, Properties. We must decide where the $50,000 goes, which is 20% required by Policy. Sally was the child of missionaries and the church’s mission projects were dear to her heart/ Her aunt was a life-long missionary in Thailand. It makes sense to Kent that Mission sleeve should get the larger portion.

Point of info: the Endowment Committee recommended, church approved, that we not consider withdrawing funds til we reached $500,000. The original goal was to have it grow it to $1,000,000 by 2028 to remove building concerns from budget.

Voting to place the $50,134 into the endowment would be a wise decision tonight, so we can start accruing interest. Charlie reminded Council that if there’s a chance we’ll need some of this money – do NOT place it in the Endowment.

**Donna moved we put 60% in the Mission sleeve of our endowment, and 20% in Undesignated, $20% in Properties. Carla seconded. Motion passed.**

Discussion of other possible uses. Sally liked the idea of a baptismal font and there is some memorial money in honor of her mom and aunts into a fund for a baptismal vessel of some kind. There was an immersion baptismal years ago that was taken out it because it leaked so badly. Deborah Payne was the last person baptized in that font. Can we consider a permanent baptismal vessel? Jeff Enge commission? Sally & Kent had the idea to use the 5 Chinese elements: fire, iron, water, earth, wood to honor her family’s connection to China. Early thought is that the cost will be about $5000 plus the original $900 in 3160.06 (Baptismal Font fund) Sally suggested a recirculating fountain and David Jones affirmed the idea of baptism happening in “living (moving) water.”

Charlie asked if it might be prudent to budget more? Kent is satisfied with that amount ($5000 + the $936 in 3160.06) as a start. There will be some $$ from the estate available for Worship & Art or Church Council to direct. There may be some individual gifts given as well. Maybe bring water from home or a special place.

**Patti moved to approve the use of $5000 from Zimmerman estate for baptismal font, Maureen seconded. Motion passed.**

Finance Board presented three suggestions for designating other bequest monies:

* We’re behind on Pastoral Leave Fund, 3110.01. Suggestion is to add $15,000 to line item
* Replenishing Hutchins Capital Improvement Fund, 3040.We know that the roof on the Education Bldg needs replacing. Suggestion is to add $25,000
* Contingency Fund, savings account to pay off deficit, cover any shortage, this would replace some deficit $ we used to pay off recent years’ deficits. This would add a year or 2 to our level of drain (currently we’re at 2 or 3 years of drawing from contingency before we’re out, and in real trouble). Contingency Fund is $0 now. Suggestion is to add $50,000

We do not have to decide tonight, it can stay in the Sally Zimmerman Memorial Account.

**Steve expressed appreciation for the thought that went into all 3 of these suggestions and moved we accept them, Patti seconded. Motion passed.**

Carla appreciated that the gift will allow Mission Bd to give ongoing support.

Kent suggest we pray & percolate on the rest of the bequest. Agreed that we’ve done good work respecting Sally’s wishes. There is about $55,000 that we will have available to distribute. All are asked to consult with their Boards and present ideas to Council.

**Discussion**

Finance Report. Patti reported. We’re in the black! Great gratitude expressed! Finance Board has been so diligent, staff has tracked expenses, we are so much better off than we were, which gives us the ability to say “yes,” instead of “if only,” which makes a huge difference in ministry. We’re holding our own financially, got extra money a month or so ago toward building insureance.

**Coordination**

**Board Updates or Highlights**

* Admin -
* CL&G – Open Table starts Aug 21, we’ll have a student welcome booth all day at the corner since God on the Quad got rained out. Aug 7 Back-to-School bash was rained out as well, moved to Community Room. Over 100 came through!
* FD –
* Finance -
* M&S – sponsoring a trip Aug. 29 to Apache Stronghold visit in Lexington
* Nominating –
* N&C -
* PRB -
* Properties –
* Worship -

**Pastor’s Report**

Sad news, death of John Payne this morning (Aug 19, 2024) after a time in The Terrace. Kent and Deborah counted up 17 medical missionary trips he served on; and he was every family’s pediatrician for decades in Berea. Service Sept. 1 at 3. Remembering Steve Boyce, and Patty, who is very much feeling his loss. There was a service for Naomi Brandenburg today. Upcoming – Kent outpatient surgery 2nd week of Sept.

Looking ahead to convening Pastoral Relations Board and structuring our grant proposal for Kent’s sabbatical – both is projects and congregation’s. In November he and PRB will start writing the Lilly pastoral renewal grant to submit in March.

Kent & Jessi are working on fall stewardship campaign. We’re having a presence at the Spoonbread Festival, 3rd week of Sept. 12 x 12 space. We’ve got new banners with 5 Mission Statement Values. Young and new families are coming.

**Announcements**

* Next meeting – September 16
* Devotion: Joan English
* Meeting ended at 9:00 with prayer.

Joan English