

**NORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2015  
PARLOR 5:30 pm**

**Present:**

Todd Daniels-Howell, Chair	Jim McDonald, SPRC Chair
Kathleen Custer, Co-Lay Leader	Shannon Priddy, Vice Chair
John Drake, Treasurer	Lee Tumminello, Trustee Chair
Margaret Mayo, At-large	Nick Tumminello, Finance Chair
Linda McClain, Lay Leader, Conference Delegate	Darren Cushman Wood, Senior Pastor

Don Nelson - Guest

**Absent:**

Eric Galloway, Ministries Council Chair and Co-Lay Leader  
Bill Groth, At-large  
Mark Grove, Secretary  
Sara Moore, At-large

**WELCOME AND MINUTES**

Chair Todd Daniels Howell called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm. The motion (McDonald) to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2015 meeting as emailed prior to the meeting carried (unanimously).

**TASK FORCE on STRATEGIC DIRECTION UPDATE – SHANNON PRIDDY**

The Task Force to look at strategic direction has met in June, July and August. It has outlined strengths of North, what is going well and opportunities for growth. The Task Force is in the research stage talking with other churches, both locally and nationally, that are similar to North. Questions include:

- Average attendance
- General feel of the church
- Operating budget
- Other streams of income, i.e. endowment
- Demographics

Churches being surveyed include:

- Bloomington First
- Methodist Temple in Evansville
- Foundry UMC, Washington D.C.
- Hennepin Ave UMC, Minneapolis
- Peoria First, Peoria, IL
- University Temple UMC, Seattle, WA
- Metropolitan UMC, Detroit
- Tabernacle Presbyterian, Indianapolis

Results of the research will be discussed at their meeting later this week. A few meetings will then be focused on North's finances, i.e. what do we need to do to increase revenue at North or to create a realistic budget each year.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE – NICK TUMMINELLO**

### **2015 Annual Budget:**

Revenue: \$1,275,954

Expenses: \$1,260,750

### **Actual as of August 31, 2015**

Year to date revenue: \$794,666 (\$55,182 positive to budget)

Year to date expenses: \$783,346 (\$62,594 less than budgeted)

2015 pledges currently are being fulfilled at over 100%. The budget was set assuming a 92% fulfillment rate.

Forecast through July: expect payment of pledges at \$975,000. Non-pledge revenue in December will be large.

The Finance Committee began the budgeting process for 2016 earlier than past years in order to help set goals for the stewardship campaign and messages that could be used in the campaign. The budget will be finalized as stewardship numbers come in.

Nick reviewed the 2016 preliminary budget sent prior to the meeting. Highlights include:

- Revenue: \$1,262,120 (\$69,742 less than 2015)
- Expenses: \$1,395,655-\$1,411,690 (higher than in 2015, which was \$1,260,750)
- Deficit budget ranging from \$133,000 (assumes no staff raises) to \$155,000 (assumes 3% staff raises)

The subject of staff raises will be the biggest decision for the 2016 budget. The budget also includes an Increase from 25% to 80% for apportionments, an increase of \$75,520. After discussion, the recommendation of the Board is to set the 2016 budget at \$1,417,208 for stewardship campaign purposes.

There was also a brief discussion on why pledges are being fulfilled at a higher rate this year. Possible reasons include:

- Pledges are being paid earlier in the year.
- Non-pledged contributions are not as high. Those members may have converted to a pledge.
- Automatic debit hasn't impacted the rate of payments
- Communication forums have been very helpful in being transparent on the church's budget. John Drake will present the forum on October 18.
- Stewardship committee conducted a survey which led to a general awareness of pledges
- Letters included in the quarterly statements
- Perhaps an improved sense of value, i.e. getting what I want at North or the feeling that a need is being covered.
- Explicit reminders and discussion of the church's needs are important
- Lenten theme of generosity
- Stewardship occurs all year round
- On line pledging being set up for 2016

The five-year capital campaign also ends this year. A letter regarding that will be sent before the stewardship campaign begins. There will also be an all-church mailing in early December to wrap up the

campaign. The goal was met this past July, but there is still a need for the capital funds to continue to grow to help pay the interest on the loan. We have approximately 1.5 – 2 years before the loan becomes a major issue. It was suggested that the Trustees continue to highlight work paid for by this campaign.

## **PASTOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Pastor's Report - Darren Cushman Wood**

- Alice Shoemaker will chair this year's Stewardship Campaign. The theme is "*Facing the Future Together.*" Members of the stewardship committee will be doing an early ask of approximately 40 members prior to Stewardship Sunday, October 25. Board members have been asked to contact members including those who haven't pledged in a while or who never have pledged, with final details to be determined
- The ability to pledge online for 2016 will be made available to members by the second week of October with pledges would not be processed until 2016.
- Young adults and families will also be targeted this year in three ways.
  1. Anne Moman Brock and Amy Sell will send out information
  2. Sunday School classes will also be visited
  3. Josh Jordan will create and distribute a video about pledges to young adults. They may not understand pledging.....and budgets.

Quality goals of the campaign:

- Over 40% majority of members to pledge
- Increase number of young adults pledging
- New members class = try to increase those numbers = 15 in new class

### **Trustees – Lee Tumminello**

- The trustees are trying to finalize the agreement with Irish for the HVAC installation in the Education wing. The proposal was correct, but there are language details to revise. Laura Halt will help communicate information, updates and progress on the project. Todd will be able to sign the contract for the project which is estimated to last 8 weeks.

### **SPRC – Jim McDonald**

- SPRC is working to enhance staff appreciation, i.e. birthday recognition. SPRC members will be assigned to one staff.
- Kathy Oehler planned the successful reception to welcome Amy Sell and Josh Jordan.
- 2016 budget for staff constituted most of the last meeting with the final recommendation of a 3% overall increase. A 2.2% increase would be across the board with the remaining .8% for merit increases based on annual evaluations.
- Eric Steele's salary would need to be increased more than 3% in order to keep in line with other associate pastors.
- Darren is lobbying not to increase his salary, but SPRC is cognizant of the need to remain in line with other senior pastor salaries to avoid any major increases in future years.

### Lay Leadership – Kathleen Custer

- The committee reviews the monthly prayer calendars as one way to think of members to involve with various committees. It is also a way to try to include current “inactive” members.
- Kathleen thanked everyone for participating in the September 20 Celebration of Ministries. Feedback has been positive as the goal was to get members involved in at least one short-term activity. Announcements for the Celebration included a connection to stewardship since these are the ministries that are supported by pledges and contributions to North.
- Kathleen will distribute to committee chairs the positions that will be open for 2016. She encouraged board members to suggest possible members and / or vice chairs.

#### General announcements:

- Illinois Street: A letter of intent and additional documents were sent to Board members prior to the meeting. The developer wants to meet to finalize an agreement.
- Construction work has begun in Tarkington Park. A link will be posted in the e-newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm

*Kathleen Custer*  
*Secretary du jour*