

Minutes
North United Methodist Church
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 28, 2018

Members

Jacqueline Blackwell (LL to AC) Jack Leonard, Treasurer
Ron Gifford, Vice Chair Kathleen Custer (LL)
Mark Grove, Secretary

Ex Officio

Darren Cushman Wood
Josh Jordan

Absent

David Wills (SPRC)
Shannon Priddy, Chair
John Drake (Finance)
Alan Archibald (MC/LL)
Mark Foglesong (AL)
Jeff Eggert (AL)
Faustin N'tala (AL)
Eric Oehler (Trustees)

The number of board members present constituted a quorum (*see Article III, section 3 of North's [bylaws](#)*).

1. Pastor Darren opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. The minutes of the December 20th meeting were approved unanimously (Kathleen/Jacqueline). *There was no January meeting.*
3. Update on Land Development Tax Credits (Ron and Darren)
 - The project was not among those awarded tax credit awards in the February award cycle.
 - Members of the Task Force will meet with Flaherty and Collins in early March to get a better idea about why the project didn't score as well with reviewers as had been expected.
 - Ron reminded board members that these awards are made statewide and a number of projects in Fort Wayne received credits in this round.
 - Members of the congregation will be brought up-to-date as to the status of the project following the meeting with the developer when we have a better idea of how the review went and next steps.
 - We can reapply in July for the next round of credits.
4. Staff Update (Darren)
 - Laura Halt has resigned as North's Communications Coordinator as she moves to a new position for the City of Fishers, closer to her home. Her last day was February 28th.
 - Laura did a great job redefining the position to make it work the way it should.
 - Linda Mansfield, a North member, will replace Laura and will start March 6th.

- Search for Minister of Visitation
 - Following challenges in finding the right match for the Minister of Visitation position at North, Darren has had informal discussions with a pastor at a local UMC church about the role. As the Minister of Visitation and the pastoral role at the other church are both part-time, it may be possible to combine the two positions in a way that benefits both congregations.
 - This arrangement could also lead to a covenant relationship between the smaller church and North.
 - Board members discussed the importance of the Minister of Visitation establishing relationships at North, both by attending services periodically and through involvement with other groups such as the Shepard Center. Such relationships would be beneficial prior to situations where visitations are required or otherwise undertaken.
 - The board agreed to have Darren continue discussions, including exploring possible other covenant relationship opportunities. Ron, Jack, and Jacqueline expressed interest in assisting with the latter discussions, as needed.

5. Committee/Board/Senior Pastor Reports

- Finance (Josh)
 - The Finance Committee held its first meeting of 2018.
 Josh provided some highlights of January's budgeted financial report:

Income

 - Pledged income for January was \$1,600 short of budget, but not a cause for significant concern.
 - Non-pledged income was \$2,900 over budget.
 - Combined with other revenue, total January income was \$1,800 over budget.

Expenses

 - Vacant positions resulted in \$4,800 savings in wages/salaries for the month.
 - Health insurance expenses were higher than budgeted for January due to a timing issue of coverage for one individual with Anthem in 2017. This will reset after a forthcoming adjustment by Anthem and should finish on budget.
 - Outsourced personnel (primarily musicians for special events) were significantly under budget for the month.
 - Though budgeted for equal amounts each month, apportionments are paid based on the prior month's income. As a result, the amount paid in January's conference apportionment was well over the standard budgeted amount. In other months, such as the summer, the payments will fall below the budgeted total.
 - With North's commitment to pay half of apportionments this year on our way back to fully funding our assessment, payments equate to 5% of income.
 - The budget line for 2018 apportionment was set before the end of the pledge cycle last fall and was set conservatively.
 - The electrical bill for January was considered unusually high, but in later review that was found to have been the case in the last two years as well.

- Following an IPL rate increase in 2016, North's allocation for this line had fallen increasingly short of actual expenses in 2016 and 2017.
- The line was upped significantly in the 2018 budget and is consistent with what North paid the last two years.

Other Finance discussion

- In addition to the usual financials and attendance reports, Josh provided two additional reports to address a concern that was raised at the [December meeting](#) regarding total church expenditures (the separate capital *and* operating budgets).
 - The two documents provided detail on expenditures for the month of January from the Church's designated fund accounts, including those used to pay the monthly mortgage principal and interest, capital expenditures (though there were no capital expenditures during January 2018), as well as other miscellaneous expenditures relating to the various designated accounts.
 - Following additional discussion, the board noted it was interested only in **material** expenses (as determined/defined by the Finance Committee). Such expenses might be summarized for the board by adding a row near the end of the monthly Budgeted Financial Report that would show these internal transfers/payments as they occur, with perhaps the full report quarterly. Given the board's interest in accountability, such a review also would be useful to board members in gaining a better overall understanding of church expenditures.
 - The board would continue to rely on the Finance Committee to monitor the details throughout the year.
 - The Board recommended that the Finance Committee report to the congregation on how 2017 finished in both revenue and expenses.
- Trustees (Darren for Eric)
 - In 2017 the Ministries Council talked with the Trustees about updating the church sign on the corner of 38th and Meridian to provide greater flexibility and usability. Converting this to a newer, electronic sign would cost about \$25,000 and Chuck will take the idea to the Trustees for consideration.
 - Staff Parish Relations Committee *SPRC*
 - No additional report beyond those staff issues earlier presented by Darren.
 - Ministries Council (Alan)
 - Among upcoming events:
 - *Anatomy of a Believer* Lenten Retreat (Youth)
 - ASP is being put developed for the summer. It is the first time it will be overseen by Cory Unthank (Youth).
 - IHN is hosting guest families February 24-28 (Mission & Outreach).
 - Farmer's Market is looking for a new market manager (M & O).
 - Lenten Retreat (Children).

- *Spring Fling/Easter Egg Hunt* will be March 24th (Children and M & O).
- Other activities:
 - At Pastor Darren’s suggestion, Ministries Council is putting together an *Ad Hoc* committee to review MC’s communications efforts for effectiveness. This would be an annual review. This also would include reviewing policy and procedure.
 - The New NorthNet has 163 subscribers for *Announcements and Prayers* and 122 for *Conversations*.
 - In other social media efforts, North’s Facebook page has 539 likes and North’s Twitter account has 97 followers.
 - Survey Monkey might be used in the future for quick feedback on church activities and events.
 - Complete minutes from Ministries Council may be found by visiting [its website](#).
- Leadership Development (Kathleen)
 - Staff Appreciation lunch will be held April 10th
 - Leadership Development sponsored the leadership orientation in January.
 - Faustin N’tala has resigned his position on the Board and the search for his successor is underway.

6. No executive session was held.

See [January 2015 minutes](#), page 6, item 7

2018 Meeting Dates

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|------------|---|
| • March 28 | • August 22 |
| • April 25 | • September 26 |
| • May 23 | • October 24 |
| • June 27 | • November 28 |
| • July 25 | • December 19 (3 rd Wednesday) |