

**Minutes**  
**North United Methodist Church**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**June 26, 2019**  
**5:30 p.m.**

***Members***

Ron Gifford, Chair  
Marie Powell, Vice Chair  
Troy Barker, Secretary  
Alan Archibald (LL/MC)

Jeff Bonner (Trustees)  
Peter Chen (At large)  
John Drake (Finance)  
Linda McClain (SPRC)

***Ex Officio***

Darren Cushman Wood  
Marie Lang, Finance Director

***Members Absent:***

Jack Leonard, Treasurer  
Jacqueline Blackwell (LL)

Jeff Eggert (At large)

Leslie Knox (At large)

1. The meeting started at 5:30 PM. Pastor Darren Opened with prayer.
2. The minutes of the March 27, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.
3. Finance Update – (Marie Lang)
  - Due to preexisting accuracy opportunities, no financial reports were provided for this meeting.
  - Marie provided an update of her activities over the last 60 days.
  - Bob Sachs continues to provide support to Marie.
  - The annual church audit is scheduled for August 4, 5 & 6.
4. “Resolution Concerning Use of Church Facilities for Weddings” (see attached signed resolution)
  - The resolution was introduced by Ron Gifford, Chair. Discussion occurred regarding resolution. A motion was made by Ron Gifford and was seconded by Marie Powell to approve the resolution. The resolution passed unanimously.
5. Recap of Annual Conference proceedings – Darren Cushman Wood

Darren provided the board a recap of the election of delegates by Annual Conference. Darren discussed the effectiveness of the Room for All Coalition’s Slate and indicated that all clergy delegates for General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference were chosen from the Room for All slate.

## 6. Approval of Silent Auction procedures (UMOJA fundraiser)

The board was presented with a general plan for the UMOJA Partnership fundraiser as part of a silent auction to auction off baskets, of which some of the baskets may contain corked wine. The board saw no issue with UMOJA actioning baskets of corked wine. Any corked wine would remain corked on church property.

## 7. Committee/Board/Senior Pastor Reports

### ❖ Trustees – Jeff Bonner

- HVAC items, one obtaining an estimate from Irish Mechanical on:
  - a. Integrating our systems to be able to be accessed from a phone or tablet.
  - b. Having central air, heating and cooling for Darren and Nancy
- Site signage on 38th and Meridian, still in progress, we lost our contact at the company we have been dealing with.
- Fire Marshall, no issues.
- West Step Lighting, still in progress, obtaining options for Jim McQ.
- Door Locks/Safety, waiting for the report
- Invasive species, working on creating a plan, with the help of the North Youth Group, and professionals.
- Masonry/wall repairs, we have a report from 2006 that provides direction. We are reviewing. Need to take care of outside before we try to work on the interior painting/wall repairs.
- Kathleen Custer gave an overview of the initial plans to upgrade the parlor, conference room and restrooms outside the parlor. (Drawing attached)

### ❖ Staff Parish Relations Committee & Leadership Development – Darren Cushman Wood

Darren reported that the Stewardship Committee was working with the Green Team and the Leadership Team in selecting and developing individuals stores and profiles as it relates to the upcoming stewardship drive. The campaign is titled “True North.”

### ❖ Senior Pastor/Administrative – Darren Cushman-Wood

- Darren provided additional information and dates regarding our new appointment, Tiffany Williams, Minister of Mission and Outreach. Her first Sunday will be July 6 with a reception following each service. Her first Sunday to preach will be July 13, 2019.

❖ Ministries Council – Alan Archibald

- Green Team – growing excitement for programming done by the Green Team, participation has been increasing
- Youth – summer events like sporting events and ASP are occurring; July 17 is North's Sunday School presentation on the ASP trip; Summer Sunday school lessons for youth are created by Cory and based on superheroes from the Marvel comics. Planned for this September are lessons/discussions on sexuality will be held for youth and parents
- Worship Without Walls = collaboration of Worship, Outreach, Children's Ministries (D & F)
- Discipleship and Formation – will provide movie and popcorn on Friday night; Saturday will provide booth of information at Pack the Park; Sunday evening will host Neighborhood Night cookout with arts and crafts
- Mission and Outreach (M & O)
- IHN occurs this week and includes involvement in Friday night movie under the tent & "Pack the Park" on Saturday; the new vendor in Tarkington Park is BRICS (Broadriple Ice Cream Service); Ice cream social on Sat from noon to 2:00
- Justice and Advocacy – in cooperation with Family and Community Partners, co-hosting Undoing Racism workshop on Sept 26 & 27. This ongoing workshop that is operated by Child Advocates is part of the CICF funding for Racial Equity and Inclusion in Indianapolis. Child Advocates and The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond. The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond focuses on understanding what racism is, where it comes from, how it functions, why it persists, and how it can be undone.
- Mission and Outreach Collaborations
- Round table discussion of Building Hope – monthly discussion Alan started to get neighborhood ministers and service providers talking about our common goal of building hope, why it's important, how we know when it's happening; regular participation from MLK, Family and Community partners, Doctoral Student researcher in place-based community development, and North members involved in outreach ministries.
- Farmers Market – first 2 markets held; from discussions, MLK Center is providing labor for market set up and will likely be able to help with tear down; this is through their youth employment programs; task force was okayed by Mission and Outreach to work on making recommendations with feasibility for improving the market's impact; focus areas are 1) increasing the revenue for vendors to attract additional vendors; 2) increasing collaboration/coordination with neighborhood partners; 3) developing the idea of building a community around a park with roundtable discussion on how a community builds hope; Alan has had discussion with CICF's Inclusive City neighborhood ambassador about creating fund for area bodegas to use in purchasing fresh produce to sell in their stores; supporting vendors, neighborhood grocers and access to nutritious food

- M & O approved providing meeting space for Indy Mentor Group, a social service collaboration of 6 agencies that provide one on one activities in the community and group activities as a formal treatment service; they held a volunteer training meeting at North prior to their community-wide Safe Summer Celebration on Memorial Day weekend where among other things DCS Director took a turn in the dunk tank; juvenile court magistrate participated; mayoral candidates stopped by; large basketball tournament, mobile video game truck; family cookout, etc. Agencies are Family and Community Partners, New Boy, Mentoring with Magic, Laser Project, Vantage Point, Inner Beauty.
- Possible School supply giveaway to community - Family and Community Partners (a social service agency created by CTS graduates) is located across Meridian Street from Tarkington Park; they are now gardening in the raised beds at the MLK Center; they want to provide a school supply giveaway for all students in a portion of North's parking lot.

Attachments: Resolution Allowing Use of Facilities for All Weddings

Housing Allowance D. Cushman Wood

Housing Allowance D. Gattone

Housing Allowance M. Lang

Housing Allowance T. Williams

## RESOLUTION CONCERNING USE OF CHURCH FACILITIES FOR WEDDINGS

The congregation of North United Methodist Church has declared its belief that all persons, including those persons who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered, are wholly the children of God and as such are entitled to full and equal status and participation within the United Methodist Church.

Policies and practices of the United Methodist Church that classify and/or discriminate against persons based on sexual orientation and gender identity are incompatible with those beliefs and our understanding of the role of the church in expressing God's love for all persons.

In particular, the Book of Discipline states: "Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches." Par. 341.6. We find this policy to be inconsistent with our understanding of Scripture and our beliefs as rooted in our Wesleyan tradition.

North's Wedding Policy (regarding the use of the church for wedding ceremonies) states that weddings are "worship services to celebrate God's gift of love and to affirm a covenant between two people and God." We believe that the use of North's worship space should be available to all persons who are prepared to make such a covenant and whose request has been approved by North Church clergy pursuant to our Wedding Policy.

THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of North United Methodist Church hereby adopts the following Resolution:

1. We affirm and support the prayerful discernment and decisions of North Church clergy in officiating wedding ceremonies for any prepared couple who comes to them.
2. With the approval of the Senior Pastor and in compliance with North Church policies, any prepared couple may hold their wedding at North Church.
3. The Board reaffirms our policy that weddings are "worship services" and must be conducted as such, with appropriate guidance and approvals by North Church clergy. The use of North Church's worship spaces by any person is a privilege, not a right.
4. The Board directs the staff to update the Wedding Policy in light of this Resolution, in particular by the following: (1) replace gender specific references in the Policy with inclusive language concerning the persons to be married; and (2) add a policy prohibiting any press or media organization from broadcasting or recording for later broadcast any part of a wedding ceremony unless prior written approval has been granted by the Senior Pastor.

This Resolution is adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of June, 2019, and is effective immediately upon adoption.

ATTEST:

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Ron Gifford, Chair

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Marie Powell, Vice Chair