

**Minutes**  
**North United Methodist Church**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**December 11, 2019**  
**5:30 p.m.**

***Members***

Ron Gifford, Chair  
Marie Powell, Vice Chair  
Troy Barker, Secretary  
Jack Leonard, Treasurer  
Jacqueline Blackwell (LL)  
Alan Archibald (LL/MC)

Jeff Bonner (Trustees)  
Peter Chen (At large)  
TBD (Finance)  
Jeff Eggert (At large)  
Leslie Knox (At large)  
Linda McClain (SPRC)

***Ex Officio***

Darren Cushman Wood  
John Drake, Finance Director

Attendance was recorded with the following individuals recorded as not present: Alan Archibald, Jeff Bonner (Trustees), Jeff Eggert (At large), Leslie Knox (At large), Linda McClain (SPRC). In Jeff Bonner's absence, Kathleen Custer was present to represent the Trustees. Pastor Darren was unable to attend. Amy Sell was in attendance representing Darren.

1. Opening Devotion

Ron opened with prayer and led the group in a moment of individual sharing regarding Christmas gift memories.

2. Approval of minutes of October 23, 2019 meeting

Minutes of the October 23, 2019 meeting were approved without objection as presented.

3. Advent Conference – Amy Sell, Marie Powell and Troy Barker

Amy Sell, Marie Powell and Troy Barker accompanied Pastor Darren to a conference composed of progressive/liberal individuals. The intention was to listen and learn. We accomplished that goal. Some specific observations are as follows:

- The main non-negotiable for this group is the focus on Persons of Color and Queer Trans plus individuals. The group consisted of very passionate, intelligent, interesting and diverse participants. We learned much from them.
- There was time spent discussing structure for a new denomination. The group was bogged down with logistics around leadership, hierarchical conversations, and what the framework would be. There seemed to be a void of high level structural or long-term leadership
- It is always important for those who don't have a voice to be able to be heard, and this conference helped that some
- If we move forward with another group or this morphs into something that can move forward, we would like to make sure all voices can continue to be heard. There were lots of people there with interesting things to say that might not be taken seriously in another context - how can we help overcome that?
- In end, it all comes down to dollars - as it always does, unfortunately. Is there a way to create a clearinghouse for disaffiliation plans from across the country?

- North possibly needs to obtain our own disaffiliation plan from our District Superintendent and fully understand it.
  - No real “next-steps”
4. Review proposed 2020 Budget (John Drake)  
John reviewed with the Board the Proposed 2020 budget. After review, the board agreed with the recommendation of the Finance Committee to ask for staff to revise it. The Finance Committee will review it again in January.
5. Report on the relationship with East Tenth Street UMC  
Pastor Darren provided the following written report regarding East 10<sup>th</sup> Street UMC.  
In early November, the lay leadership of East Tenth adopted a two-part resolution. One, they want to transfer the title of the property to the Children and Youth Center. This requires a charge conference vote with approval from the pastor and DS (This is possible without involving the conference trustees as long as the local church is still in existence). Two, they want to merge with North on the condition that North will continue to operate worship services and ministries on the site. This will require an MOA with the Children and Youth Center once the property has been transferred.

The first part will be done at our joint charge conference, which has been postponed to the new year (January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020). We can begin a discussion about the second part at our January meeting.

Furthermore, Darren has had conversations with the DS about this, and she seems to be fine with it.

Disposing of the property issue first will make it easier for us to talk about merger/satellite ministry. East Tenth’s situation is odd. One the one hand, they have a fully functional worship service that is sustainable (administratively, financially, and in terms of leadership) for the next few years. They get about 20-30 from the neighborhood. On the other hand, their leadership is dying (literally. Of the three major givers, 2 have stage 4 cancer and the other’s husband is receiving hospice care). It is the only mainline Protestant church left on the Near Eastside which is undergoing a positive economic and cultural shift.

#### 6. Committee/Board Reports

- Land Use

Ron provided an update on the Land Use. North did not receive the tax credit requested. The Land Use Committee will evaluate the options and report accordingly

- Finance

Income:

Pledge: income was below the budget for the month of November and Year to Date. December is historically a strong month. It is possible to get at or close to 100% of the budget on Pledges.

Non-Pledge Contributions: Same as pledge in regard to Actual to Budget for November and Year to Date. However, last year the deficit was closed in December. It is reasonable to project that it could happen again this year.

Pre-Paid Pledges: 36,000 for November. John will check with Auditor to be sure how much of this revenue should actually be posted as future revenue for 2020 and beyond.

Total Revenue for 2019 is \$52,000 below budget. Given the past history of giving at North, it is likely that we can close that gap.

Expenses:

We under Budget for the month due to the transfer of Expenses that should have been posted as Assets. (32,000). Account 56070 contained the items to be reposted as assets.

Salaries and Wages: Continue over Budget since the amount entered into Shelby was incorrect. For 2020, the budget amounts will be spread based on a three year average for all the major income and expense lines.

Summary: Expenses are under budget for November and over Budget Year to Date.

\*If desired copies of financial reports are available by contacting the church office.

- Trustees (Kathleen Custer)
  - 38th St sign - waiting for the city approvals before signing the contract.
  - Parlor/Restroom renovation - waiting for MEP (mech, electrical, and plumbing) diagram in order to send out for contractor bids
  - Hallway from the west entrance to the community room - replacing carpet with tiles. Work was completed by member John Hughes
  - Playground – removed and cleaned up
  - The trustees are working on a solution to light steps on the west side of the church, leading down to the handicapped parking spaces. No electricity is currently available.

- Staff Parish Relations Committee  
No Report Provided
- Ministries Council  
No Report Provided
- Leadership Development  
Darren provided the following written report.

The Leadership Development Committee is almost done creating the slate of nominations for charge conference. We will finish it in the next couple of weeks. Because we had not had a charge conference date, we have not set the dates for the Sunday consecration of new leaders and the leadership kickoff.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by Troy Barker, Board Secretary