

**Minutes**  
**North United Methodist Church, Inc**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**January 25, 2023, \* 5:30 p.m.**  
**ZOOM Meeting**

***Members***

Orson Mason, Chair  
Kathy Gifford, Vice Chair  
Troy Barker, Secretary  
Jessica White, Treasurer  
Eric Lekberg (LL/MC)

Jeff Bonner (Trustees)  
Charles Young (Finance)  
Jacqueline Blackwell (At large)  
Dan Wegg (SPRC)  
Mary McDonald  
Lyn Berkebile

***Ex Officio***

Darren Cushman Wood  
John Drake, Finance Director

***Note this meeting was changed from in-person to Zoom due to weather-related issues.***

1. Roll Call - Roll Call - the following members were present: Orson Mason, Kathy Gifford, Troy Barker, Eric Lekberg, Jeff Bonner, Jacqueline Blackwell, Dan Wegg, Mary McDonald, and Lyn Berkebile; Ex Officio - Darren Cushman Wood and John Drake. Board Members Jessica White and Charles Young were not present.
2. Opening Devotion (Pastor Darren)  
Pastor Darren and Orson Mason opened us in prayer and a devotional moment.
3. Introduction of members.  
All members present introduced themselves.
4. Approval of the Minutes from the November 30, 2022, meeting (Orson Mason)  
The minutes of November 30, 2022, was unanimously approved. The motion was moved by Eric Lekberg and seconded by Kathy Gifford.
5. Senior Pastor Report, Leadership Development (Pastor Darren)
  - Darren provided positive feedback regarding the Leadership Kickoff meeting. On January 29, the outgoing and incoming leaders will be recognized during the worship service.
  - The leadership development team will begin planning for the upcoming year for a ministry fair in the fall.
  - Darren indicated noting new was currently happening within the Annual Conference. In November, 105 churches disaffiliated from the Annual Conference. This accounts for approximately 8% of the total churches within the conference. Additional churches may disaffiliate at June's Annual Conference.

6. Ministry Council - Eric Lekberg  
Ministries Council met on January 23, 2023, and worked on the Spring/Summer Programming Book.

Finance – John Drake

John provided the following report, including the December Financials.  
The finance report was presented to the board by John Drake. Troy Barker made a motion to accept the report presented by John Drake.

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### **December 2022 Financial Statements Report Prepared by John Drake**

#### **Balance Sheet**

**Cash:** \$942,130.72 as of December 31 compared to \$953,202.93 as of November 30. The decrease in cash is from the monthly payment of the Mortgage (\$9,775). Please note that we receive \$25,000 per month via on-line giving from 70 giving units. Please review the Cash Summary for December 2022.

#### **Budgeted Income Statement**

##### **Income**

**Budgeted Amounts Explanation:** The monthly budget amounts shown for Current Year Pledges and Non-Pledge Contributions have been adjusted to reflect seasonal variations by using the average of actual results over the last four years as a guide. The budget amount shown for each of the other income line items is its annual budget amount divided by 12.

**Pledges:** \$3,475 under budget for December. YTD the pledge income is \$3,372 more than the 2022 budget. Year to Date Pledges received in 2022 are \$3,200 more than the same time frame for 2021.

**Non-Pledge Contributions:** \$4,919 under budget for December. We are \$40,000 ahead of the budget for 2022. Year to date non-pledge contributions are \$55,000 ahead of the same period in 2021.

**Non-Discretionary Income:** Transferred \$36,000 to cover the portion of the difference between actual income and expenses.

## Expenses

**Budgeted Amounts Explanation:** The monthly budget amounts shown for Utilities, Audit and Janitorial Supplies have been adjusted to reflect seasonal variations by using the average of the last four years as a guide. The budget amounts shown for other expense line items are annual budget amounts divided by 12.

**Wage and Salaries:** We are \$2,349 under budget for December. The savings are the result of Diane's position opening plus the combining of the Building Manager and Assistant Building Manager positions into one. We are also under budget YTD.

**Benefits:** We are \$29,375 under budget for benefits YTD. Benefits include health care, housing allowance, and pension matching. This is a very good benefit package.

**Utilities:** Total utilizes (electricity, heating fuel, and water/sewer) were \$ 1,773 over budget for the month. YTD we are \$8,249 over budget for utilities. I have increased the Electricity Budget for 2023.

**Travel Reimbursement** – Expenses are over budget since one program staff member had not turned in their travel expense for all of 2022 until December.

**Insurance** – The additional cost this month is for our annual payment for Workers Compensation Insurance. .

### Summary:

- Actual expenses are \$23,859 under budget YTD. YTD our actual expenses exceed our actual revenue by \$974. To accomplish this required a combination of expense control and use of Designated Funds. .

December was a stronger income month. It was much better than December 2021.

### 7. 2023 Budget Consideration – John Drake

The finance committee presented the 2023 budget for approval. The motion to approve the budget passes unanimously.

Darren mentioned that clergy salaries needed to be approved by a charge conference. Darren will schedule a future charge conference with our District Superintendent.

### 8. Conversation regarding future budgeting – Eric Lekberg

The following motion was made by Eric Lekberg and seconded by Troy Barker. Eric indicated there was a conversation at the leadership kickoff meeting regarding North’s future budgets. The following motion passed unanimously.

Motion - “The board of directors creates a task force to develop a proposal for a sustainable, balanced budget which will be implemented in 2024. The task force will comprise the *chairperson and vice chairperson of the board of directors, ministries council chair, and stewardship chair* and will be staffed by the *senior pastor and the finance director*. The task force will engage with the finance committee, trustees, SPRC, and endowment committee chairs as they develop preliminary reports and share them with the church’s leadership. The task force will provide an initial progress report no later than May 31, 2023, and present a final report to the board no later than September 2023.

9. Trustees – Jeff Bonner

The trustees met in January. The trustees elected Jeff Bonner as the chair of the group. The Book of Discipline requires the trustees to elect its chair. Jeff indicated they are working on “low-hanging fruit,” such as providing internal seals on windows, HVAC, Landscaping, and LED lights.

Troy Barker motioned to accept the report provided.

10. Staff Parish Relations Committee – Dan Wegg

Staff Parish met in January, where they discussed salaries and recommendations for the budget. Darren indicated that the Care and Nature position search had been tabled.

Mary McDonald motioned to accept the report provided.

11. New/Other Business – Orson Mason

Orson asked Board Members to consider further engagement with members and lay members regarding North and its practices. Orson asked the board to consider how we continue to engage with church members. Orson suggested that we need to know, care for, and engage with one another.

Should board members have items they wish covered during our monthly meetings – please send these requests to Troy Barker to add them to the agenda.

12. Adjournment 6:42 PM

**Meetings Scheduled for 2023**

January 25 Zoom	April 26 North	July 26 Zoom	October 25 North
February 22 North	May 24 Zoom (tent)	August 23 North	November 22* Zoom
March 22 Zoom	June 28 North	September 27 Zoom	December 20* North