

Minutes
North United Methodist Church, Inc
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 24, 2024, * 5:30 p.m.
In-Person Meeting

Members

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

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

Ex Officio

Darren Cushman Wood
John Drake, Finance Director

1. Roll Call - The following members were present: Orson Mason, Kathy Gifford, Troy Barker, Jeff Eggert, Eric Lekberg, Jeff Bonner, Dan Wegg, Ex Officio members Pastor Darren Cushman Wood, and John Drake. Members Shawn Denney, Jacqueline Blackwell, Mary McDonald, and Lyn Berkebile were not present.
2. Opening Devotion (Pastor Darren)
3. Approval of the Minutes from the November 23, 2023, meeting (Orson Mason)
The minutes were approved as presented.
4. Finance – (John Drake)
 - Stewardship Campaign Update
The stewardship campaign was successful. 231 pledging units. Income \$996,573
We exceeded our 2024 Income goal by \$35,000.
 - 2024 Annual Budget
The 2024 Budget was presented and approved.
The Finance Committee presented the Motion, and the board unanimously approved it.
 - Monthly Finance Report – Written report provided in advance, inserted below.

Notes For December 2023
Financial Statements
Prepared by John Drake

Balance Sheet

Cash: \$670,551.42, as of December 31st compared to \$654,575.01 as of November 30th The increase in cash is due to the increase in pledge income. Please note that we receive \$25,000 per month via on-line giving from sixty giving units. Please review the Cash Summary for December 2023.

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 seven years as a guide. The budget amount shown for each of the other income line items is its annual budget amount divided by twelve.

Pledges: \$15,112 over budget for December. Year to date we are \$29,430 over the 2023 budget through December. December is normally a strong and positive month for pledges.

Non-Pledge Contributions: \$11,280 over budget for December. We are \$19,983 ahead of the Budget for this income as of December 2023. This income is more of a wildcard than pledge income from year to year. This year was a real positive exception to the normative amount of income for this account.

Interest Income – Increased the 2023 budget this year to cover the Salary increases. Please note that our total income for interest as of December 31st is \$35,621. This covers the salary increases and other shortfalls in income.

Transfer from Designated Funds: No transfers needed for December 2023.

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 twelve.

Wage and Salaries: We are under budget for salaries in December and Year to Date. We are under YTD due to the less hours worked by the Security Guard and other hourly workers.

Benefits: We are under budget for the total of all benefit lines both for December and YTD.

Utilities: Total utilities (electricity, water/sewer, and heat) are down for December since electricity is under budget for the month. AES failed to bill us for the second account in December. Utilities are under budget as of December 2023. Lower costs for natural gas, due to a contract with pre-arranged pricing has resulted in being under budget for 2023.

Expenses such as Technology/Hardware, and Photocopies did indeed have two bills paid in December as predicted in the November Notes.

Summary:

- Actual revenue and expenses are over budget for December. The good news is that YTD our actual expenses are \$29,653 under budget.
 - December is a typically strong month regarding revenue. Non-pledge contributions were a wonderful surprise for us. Actual total income was only \$1,500 short of the budget for 2023. The generosity of our members was clearly visible this year.
5. Senior Pastor Report, Leadership Development, and Land Development (Pastor Darren)
- For both services, the 2024 leadership introduction/celebration is on Sunday, January 28, 2024.
 - Leadership kickoff meeting Wednesday, March 6, 2024 @ 5:30 PM
 - UMC Update – General Conference – approximately 25% of congregations have disaffiliated from the UMC nationally, and approximately 30% from the Indiana Conference.
 - Land Development – Conversation is continuing with local government regarding the use of TIF funds and other income streams for the Illinois Street development.
6. Ministry Council – (Eric Lekberg)
- MC is currently working on the yearly calendar; this will be published soon.
7. Trustees – (Jeff Bonner)
- Jeff Bonner was reelected as Chair of the Trustees.
 - Elevator rehab starts in February. The south elevator will be rehabbed first.
 - Jeff L. is evaluating HVAC issues.
 - Update on Indy Landmarks Grant – Two individuals (Darren and Doshia Stewart) are scheduled to attend an upcoming informational meeting.
8. Staff Parish Relations Committee – (Dan Wegg)
- SPRC continues to monitor job roles with the reduction of the bookkeeper position.
9. Strategic Financial Task Force Update – (Orson Mason)
- The Strategic Financial Task Force will meet again in March 2024.

10. Adjournment

Meetings Scheduled for 2024

| | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| January 24 - In Person | April 24 - In Person | July 24 - In Person | October 23 - In Person |
| February 28 Zoom 5:00 | May 22 - In Person | August 28 - In Person | November 27 - In Person |
| March 27 Canceled | June 6 - In Person | September - In Person | December 25 - In Person |