

Minutes
North United Methodist Church, Inc
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 26, 2023, * 5:30 p.m.
In-Person 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

1. Roll Call - the following members were present: Orson Mason, Kathy Gifford, Troy Barker, Eric Lekberg, Jeff Bonner, Charles Young Jacqueline Blackwell, Dan Wegg, Mary McDonald, and Lyn Berkebile; Ex Officio - Darren Cushman Wood and John Drake. Jessica White was not present.
2. Opening Devotion (Pastor Darren) – Ephesians 1:18 - I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called— his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.
3. Approval of the Minutes from the March February 20, 2023, meeting.
The minutes were approved without objection.
4. Senior Pastor Report, Leadership Development
Flower Shop -
Pastor Darren reported that the Federal Bankruptcy Court had accepted an agreement/settlement of \$30 million from the United Methodist Church. (\$1.45 million allocated to the Indiana Conference) The following letter was provided to Noth UMC. No additional information was provided.

As you may recall, the United Methodist Ad Hoc committee, representing the United Methodist churches involved in scouting, agreed to contribute \$30 million to a "Settlement Trust" totaling approximately \$3 billion for the benefit of sex abuse survivors. The Settlement Trust also would be funded by contributions from the Boy Scouts of America ("BSA"), insurance companies, and other chartering organizations. The Indiana Conference agreed to contribute \$1,456,000 toward the total \$30 million United Methodist contribution. This Settlement Trust will be used to compensate the survivors who experienced abuse while in scouting. The United Methodist settlement and the Settlement Trust are cornerstones of BSA's chapter 11 plan of reorganization (the "Plan"). On September 8, 2022, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware entered an order confirming (or approving) the Plan (the "Confirmation Order"). The Confirmation Order also constituted approval of the settlement with the United Methodist churches and the Settlement Trust. This means that, under the Plan, chartering organizations such as our local churches will be released from liability for sex abuse claims that occurred prior to February 18, 2020, and were related to scouting activities supported by such organizations. It also means that the United Methodist Church has committed to undertake other measures directed to help with healing and supporting survivors and to implement processes to prevent future abuse. Several insurance companies and two sets of claimants appealed the Confirmation Order. However, on March 28, 2023, the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware affirmed the Confirmation Order. The appellants requested a stay of the Confirmation Order pending further appeal, which the District Court denied. As a result, the Plan became effective on April 19, 2023, which means that BSA has emerged from its bankruptcy case and can continue its operations outside of bankruptcy.

The United Methodist Ad Hoc Committee is now in the process of setting up a framework for the funding of the Settlement Trust, for the fulfillment of the United Methodist Church's obligations for implementing improved protections from abuse and providing platforms for survivors to be heard, as well as a process for chartering organizations to channel any claims to the Settlement Trust. More information will be forthcoming as the United Methodist Ad Hoc Committee finalizes these processes and recommendations. In the meantime, please note that the BSA's emergence from bankruptcy and the effectiveness of the Plan do not alter any of a church's obligations under any new affiliation agreements you may have executed with the BSA or its local Scout Councils. As always, we encourage you to consult with your own counsel throughout this process.

Questions? Contact Ruth Ellen Needler at ruthellen.needler@inumc.org or 317-564-3254.

5. Finance – John Drake & Charles Young

Notes to March 2023 Financial Statements Prepared by John Drake

Balance Sheet

Cash: \$951,248.26 as of March 31st, 2023 compared to \$1,029,544.29 as of February 28th, 2023. The decrease in cash is due to an operating deficit for March (\$27,000) and Trustee projects of (\$47,000). Please note that we receive \$25,000 per month via on-line giving from 60 giving units. Please review the Cash Summary for March 2023. Please note that the approval of the Endowment Distribution Recommendation will help increase the cash level.

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: \$673 under budget for March 2023. Year to date we are \$47,618 over the 2023 budget through March. This represents a good start.

Non-Pledge Contributions: \$452 over budget for March. This is more of a wildcard than pledge income from year to year.

Non-Discretionary Income: Did not transfer since actual income is higher than actual 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 \$836 under budget for March.

Benefits: We are \$589 over 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 \$1,325 over budget for the month. Electricity continues to be higher than budgeted.

Continuing Education – Is over budget due to attendance at a conference by Darren. Help for Amy to attend Seminary is also shown here.

Technology/Hardware – We are paying two bills for our monthly computer service in March (3,089X2).

Food and Meals – Over budget due to Mardi Gras, Youth Retreat and weekly food for Lenten activities.

Summary:

- Actual expenses are \$1,700 under budget YTD. YTD our actual revenue exceeds our actual expenses by \$13,096.
- March was where it was planned to be.

6. Update from NUMC Strategic Financial Planning Task Force.
Orson made a motion to approve the distribution of the *Task Force Fact Sheet* to church leadership. The motions passed without objection.
7. Ministry Council - Eric Lekberg
Ministry Council met and discussed fall activities.

8. Trustees – Jeff Bonner

Jeff reported that the trustees were working on the following items.

Choir loft lighting – Completed

Temporary lighting had been installed on the exterior steps at the west entry.

The trustees are continuing work on the landscaping of the property.

Board member Jacqueline Blackwell requested that the trustees evaluate the addition of a railing on the east steps of the courtyard. This was raised for safety concerns.

9. Staff Parish Relations Committee – Dan Wegg

Dan indicated that SPRC is evaluating prior salary increase histories related to the time of service and classification.

10. Adjournment

Meetings Scheduled for 2023

January 25 Zoom ✓	April 26 Live ✓	July 26 Zoom	October 25 Zoom
February 22 Live ✓	May 24 Zoom	August 23 Live	November 22* Live
March 22 Canceled	June 28 Live	September 27 Zoom	December 20* Zoom