

**Minutes**  
**North United Methodist Church, Inc**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**August 23, 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 (Lay Delegate)

***Ex Officio***

Darren Cushman Wood  
John Drake, Finance Director

1. Roll Call - The following members were present. Orson Mason, Kathy Gifford, Troy Barker, Jessica White (zoom), Eric Lekberg (zoom), Jeff Bonner, Charles Young, Jacqueline Blackwell, Dan Wegg (zoom), Darren Cushman Wood, and John Drake. Mary McDonald and Lyn Berkebile were not present.
2. Opening Devotion (Orson Mason)
3. Approval of the Minutes from the June 28, 2023, meeting (Orson Mason)  
Kathy Gifford motioned to accept the minutes, and Charles Young seconded. It was unanimously approved.
4. Senior Pastor Report, Leadership Development (Pastor Darren)  
Sunday (September 3, 2023) is the Celebration of Ministries; Darren asked for volunteers to represent the BOD. Eric and Charles agreed to serve.  
Nominations – Please provide Darren with any needs different committees may have regarding staffing needs.  
Charge Conference - Our charge conference will be held at Bethel UMC on Sunday, October 29, at 3 p.m. It usually lasts 90 minutes. **Please mark your calendars.**
5. Land Development – (Pastor Darren)  
Discussion with Ace Hardware continues with Ace Hardware regarding their environmental situation.  
Discussion continues regarding TIFF funding for the Illinois Street project. Representative Greg Porter is engaged in the Health and Hospital Corporation conversation.

## 6. Finance – (John Drake & Charles Young)

### **Notes For July 2023 - 2023 Financial Statements - Prepared by John Drake**

#### Balance Sheet

*Cash: \$801,372.92 as of July 31st, 2023, compared to \$976,513.00 as of May 31st, 2023. The decrease in cash is due to (\$55,000) in Trustees projects, the monthly mortgage payment (\$10,000), (\$42,000) operating deficit., and 20,000 from other designated funds. Please note that we receive \$25,000 per month via on-line giving from sixty giving units. Please review the Cash Summary for July 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 four 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: \$27,281 under budget for July 2023. Please note that a donor who usually gives most of this amount gave in April. Year to date we are \$28,099 over the 2023 budget through June. We are just under last year's actual by less than \$7,000. June, July and August are not good months for pledge offerings.*

*Non-Pledge Contributions: \$1,299 under budget for July. We are \$11,513 ahead of the Budget for this income as of June 2023. This income is more of a wildcard than pledge income from year to year.*

##### 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 July and YTD.*

*Benefits: Slightly ahead of budget for the year. I paid both staff Pension payments for June and July in July.*

*Utilities: Total utilities (electricity, water/sewer, and heat) are up \$4,457 since we did not receive the larger of our two June bills until July. We have instructed AES to change our billing dates to avoid this ongoing billing problem.*

*Food and Meals – Under budget for June and July. Also, under budget slightly under budget.*

*Registration Fees – Please note that expenses are over budget as is income through June.*

##### Summary:

- *Actual expenses are under budget for July. YTD our actual expenses are \$14,000 under budget. We are current with payment of all billings presented to us.*
- *July was not a good revenue month. However, for July this is normal. The next several months (August and September) can be challenging.*

7. Staff Parish Relations Committee – (Dan Wegg) -  
 SPRC completed its Time Study review process last week, and I would like to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation for the cooperation and valuable input received from all staff members involved in this process. Their openness and assistance were very helpful in our review, and we look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts in shaping a positive and effective work environment. Further updates on our progress will be shared in due course.
  
8. Ministry Council – (Eric Lekberg)  
 Ministry Council met the week of August 20, 2023. The council resolved that on all future All Church events, a lay person would be assigned to the event to liaise and assist the staff person. This process is being done to reduce the load on the staff person and allow for better communication.  
 The Ministry Council will meet on Sunday, September 17, 2023, after church to discuss a top-level Strategic Budget Task Force (SBTF) proposal.
  
9. Trustees – (Jeff Bonner)  
 Elevator Repairs are being scheduled.  
 Approval was given for the replacement of exterior light heads to LED Lights.  
 Pitch Repair to the roof completed.  
 Balcony Floor Repair (wood flooring).  
 We are in the process of scheduling the installation of the handrail for the courtyard.
  
10. Discussion related to apportionments and notes from charge conference – (Orson Mason)  
 Maria Powell was present to provide historical information regarding North’s stance on apportionments and the lack of inclusion within the larger United Methodist Church. The board discussed the prior and current situation regarding the lack of inclusion. No action was considered regarding a change in North’s position. Orson asked that the topic be placed on the agenda again in February or March of 2024 for additional discussion.
  
11. Adjournment

**Meetings Scheduled for 2023**

January 25 Zoom ✓	April 26 Live ✓	July 26 Zoom Canceled	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