

Minutes
North United Methodist Church, Inc
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 22, 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)
Jeff Warbinton (SPRC)
Mary McDonald
Lyn Berkebile

Ex Officio

Darren Cushman Wood

1. Roll Call

All members listed above were present with the exception of Jeff Eggert, Eric Lekberg, and Mary McDonald

2. Opening Devotion (Orson)

3. Approval of the Minutes from the April 24, 2024, meeting (Orson Mason) Copy Pending

4. Senior Pastor Report, Leadership Development, and Land Task Force (Pastor Darren

- Update on the Sacred Places Indiana Matching Grant

We were approved for the \$25,000 planning grant. This money will be used to pay for the updated bid from Arsee. The church will receive this grant in two parts, with the final half after the submission of the final report (due August 26). Arsee will be completing their scope this summer and then there will be \$7,000 for them to manage the repair work during the duration of the project.

Timeline:

1. February to August 2024—Completion and Disbursement of Planning Grant.
2. October 2024—Mid-program evaluation.
3. May 2025—Capital grant request: 25% of matching funds raised; project is permit-ready with final bids—50% of grant fund disbursed.
4. September 2025—Interim progress report
5. January 2026—100% of construction complete; 100% of matching funds raised.
6. February 2026—final report submitted, final disbursement of funds.

- General Conference Update
 1. Social Principals change regarding same sex marriage.
 2. The Book of Discipline has been updated to remove penalties related to human sexuality and marriage penalties.
 3. Pastors are free to marry any person.
 4. There is no mandate for local churches to allow same sex weddings to take place on church property.
 5. More information will be available at Darren's presentation on 6/2/2024.

5. Discussion concerning the status of Apportionments.

North is currently not paying apportionments and has not since 2019. This action is related to the language and practice outlined in the Book of Discipline regarding human sexuality. It was suggested that North leadership (Orson) will draft and send a letter to the bishop indicating that North will begin paying apportionments. In 2024 North will provide a symbolic payment to the conference for 2024 and begin planning for 2025 and future years.

A motion was presented by Jeff W. and seconded by Shawn D.

Motion: North will commence paying apportionments in 2024. In 2024 the church will provide a symbolic payment and in 2025 will evaluate a payment schedule.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Finance – (Shawn Denney)

North staff and the consultant from Bookkeeping Plus have successfully acclimated to using Shelby. Payroll operating expenses and revenue deposits are all running efficiently. Two new designated funds have been established, one of which is for Land Use Development and Sacred Spaces. It appears that December 2023, and by extension fiscal year 2023, were not fully closed out in Shelby. This created issues with running reports. The staff has a high level of confidence that the issue will be resolved in time for the June meeting.

Darren indicated that financial reports January through April (2024) would be available by June 1st, and May reports would be available by the June (6/21/24) meeting.

7. Staff Parish Relations Committee – (Dan Wegg)

- The SPRC met in-person for their May 14th, 2024, meeting. Pastor Darren gave an update regarding North's continued efforts in the search for a Finance Director. Pastor Darren reported that he'll be working on some additional publications to further spread the word of the position's availability and that all required reports were on track and payroll completed thanks to an external bookkeeping service.

- SPRC discussed what staffing for community outreach and pastoral visitation could look like in the future. Pastor Darren will work with additional committees to ensure a smooth transition.
- SPRC is planning farewell receptions for both Pastors Sunil and Amy. SPRC will host coffee receptions after the 8:30 services and catered luncheons after the 11:00 services.
- For further information regarding SPRC’s work, please reach out to Jeff Warbington.

8. Trustees – (Jeff Bonner)

- Eric Oehler has replaced Sarah Galloway.
South Elevator – Should be complete in the first week of June, North elevator to begin during Mid-June.
- Roof Repairs – This week, addressing leakage on some of the flat roofs.
- Exterior Masonry - Arsee Engineering think that our report should be completed by the end of July.
Security Monitors – At least half are out. Trustees are not sure who is responsible for their repair/replacement. Trustees were not involved in their purchase or installation.
- Church Audio Visual – Trustees are not sure what our place is for these updates/upgrades. Trustees would like to request Pastor Darren to attend our next meeting to help us understand our place regarding these items.
The Trustees would like to give permission for the Violin Competition permission to display Artwork in the Gathering Center around September/October 2024. Depending on the responsibility/liability for this exhibit.
Trustees are collaborating with the Green Team to install a Butterfly Waystation in our park on the northeast corner of our site.
- Window inserts have been installed in the Gathering Center and the restroom across from the Gathering Center. The Trustee’s plan is to have window inserts added to all windows in the education wing, as needed. This will help with sound and insulation since the existing windows are single paned.

9. 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 26 - In Person	September - In Person	December 25 - In Person