

Minutes
North United Methodist Church
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
November 15, 2017
5:30 p.m.

Members

Shannon Priddy, Chair
Ron Gifford, Vice Chair
Jim McDonald (SPRC)
Richard Kluger (Finance)
Eric Oehler (Trustees)

John Drake, Treasurer
Eric Galloway (MC/LL)
Mark Grove, Secretary
Kathleen Custer (LL)
Jacqueline Blackwell (LL to AC)

Ex Officio

Darren Cushman Wood
Josh Jordan

Absent

Faustin N'tala (AL)
Jeff Eggert (AL)
Mark Foglesong (AL)

1. Darren opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. The minutes of the October 25th meeting were approved unanimously (Jim/Jacqueline).
3. Update on 2018 Stewardship (Darren & Josh)
 - Through Day 15 of the 2018 campaign (*November 12th*), North had 216 pledges for a total of \$805,333. This is ahead of the same day in the 2017 campaign when we had 198 pledges for \$799,445.
 - The average pledge to-date is running about \$350 ahead of the average pledge for the *completed* 2017 campaign.
 - A mailing will be going out on November 27th to those church members who pledged for 2017 but have not yet done so for 2018. This will be followed by calls and e-mails from members of the Stewardship Committee intended to encourage completion of the pledge. A second (and final) round of reminder calls will be made as needed in mid-December.
 - Including a pledge form as the Connect Card [in the Bulletin](#) for the first time was successful as a number of pledges were submitted using that form. Pledge cards also are available in the pews.
4. Update on Land Development (Ron)
 - The comprehensive application for tax credits has been submitted with the decision to be made in February.
 - The application included a letter of intent from a grocer to be a tenant in the development.
 - Flaherty and Collins has lined up two grants from the city. One is set; the other likely.
 - [Mapleton Fall Creek Development](#) has been active in the [Great Places](#) initiative. We will host their next board meeting to walk them through the development proposal.

- We recognize the importance of engagement with neighborhood groups [in our area](#), some of which also are community development corporations.
 - Shannon will follow-up with Land Use Task Force members regarding possible service on the new committee of the Board to help with the next phase of the project. [See October Board minutes](#)
 - We will need additional conversations with the Green Team and other interested North groups about possible use of the old playground for parking. The tradeoff for keeping the playground would be fewer parking spaces.
 - This needs to be settled one-way-or-another in moving to a final design for the project.
5. Committee/Board/Senior Pastor Reports
- Finance (Richard)
 - After two months of below-budget pledged income, a stronger October brought us back up to budget (\$592 over the budgeted year-to-date target).
 - Total expenses remain well below budget through October (a variance of \$55,847) with lower wages and personnel-related costs leading the way.
 - Savings year-to-date are fairly widespread with approximately 71% of the budgeted expense lines running below their budgeted amounts.
 - The 2018 Budget will be reviewed at the next Finance Committee meeting, following an update on projected income from the Stewardship Campaign. Finance will then be in a position to provide greater 2018 budgetary detail and recommendations to the Board for its December 20th meeting.
 - Even if still in draft form, the detailed budget will be sent out to the Board prior to its meeting to allow time for review.
 - Though a goal, approving the budget in December is not required. Darren noted that in conversations with counterparts at other large churches it is very typical that budgets are not approved before the end of the year.
 - If need-be, the Board can approve the budget in January.
 - Trustees (Eric O.)
 - The carpets have been cleaned. Building Manager Chuck Teague has found a better, less expensive cleaner to be used in the future.
 - The Trustees will draw up a wish-list of 2018 projects at their December meeting.
 - Staff Parish Relations Committee *SPRC* (Jim)
 - We are in the midst of pastor evaluation process. Responses are being gathered through a three-part on-line survey managed by Kathleen Custer.
 - The survey results will be complemented by interviews with Pastors Ronnie Bell and Darren Cushman Wood.
 - *SPRC* recommended a 2% salary increase for both pastors, despite Darren's request for no personal increase until the church tithe was being paid in full. *SPRC* thought it important that both pastors receive this increase in the next year.
 - Ministries Council (Eric G.)
 - No meeting.

- Leadership Development (Kathleen)
 - Leadership Development has completed preparing the charge conference slate.
- Chair (Shannon)
 - The Board will have a conversation regarding *A Way Forward* and its impact on the global church and special General Conference in 2019. The report goes to the commission in [March](#).
 - The Board conversations tentatively are scheduled to begin at the April meeting.

Resources

- [Commission on a Way Forward](#)
 - [News Releases](#)
 - [Moderator Updates](#)
- Senior Pastor/Administrative (Darren)
 - Northnet has been redesigned to feature two different components:
 - *Announcements & Praying for our Parish* (which accepts postings by staff and ministry chairs) and
 - *Congregation Conversations* which will be similar to the current NorthNet.
 - North members can elect to receive messages from either or both lists.

6. Executive Session (if requested)

See [January 2015 minutes](#), page 6, item 7

Upcoming Meeting Dates

- December 20 (3rd Wednesday)

2018 Meeting Dates

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 24 • February 28 • March 28 • April 25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A Way Forward • May 23 • June 27 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 25 • August 22 • September 26 • October 24 • November 21 (3rd Wednesday) • December 19 (3rd Wednesday) |
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