

Minutes
North United Methodist Church
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 22, 2017
5:30 p.m.

Members

Ron Gifford, Vice Chair
Jim McDonald (SPRC)
Mark Grove, Secretary

John Drake, Treasurer
Eric Galloway (MC/LL)
Mark Foglesong (AL)
Kathleen Custer, LL

Ex Officio

Darren Cushman Wood
Josh Jordan

Absent

Shannon Priddy, Chair
Richard Kluger (Finance)
Jeff Eggert (AL)
Faustin N'tala (AL)
Eric Oehler (Trustees)
Jacqueline Blackwell, (LL to AC)

Guest

Pablo Svirsky, Chair, Land Use Taskforce

1. Pastor Darren led the group in an opening prayer.
2. The minutes of the 22 February meeting were approved unanimously (Jim/John).
3. Land Development (Darren & Pablo)
 - Darren and Pablo led members through the draft Letter of Intent (LOI) between Flaherty & Collins Development (FCD) and North Church.
 - The LOI provides an overview of discussions to-date between North and FCD regarding a possible mixed-use development on a portion of North's property. While more formal agreements would be required before development actually began, the LOI includes
 - a summary of the proposed project including a general goal of helping stabilize and strengthen the neighborhood
 - joint and separate responsibilities of the partnership between North and FCD, including construction and property management (FCD) and development and/or delivery of certain services for residents consistent with the church's mission and ministry (North)
 - an agreement to work together, where appropriate, in support of related community development projects that may be undertaken in the immediate vicinity of the property
 - The LOI is non-binding and is intended to define the basic parameters under which FCD and North Church are willing to proceed to negotiate the Formal Agreements for the project.

- The document is very similar to an earlier LOI signed in 2015. The biggest change is that the financing would be easier than it was earlier with the 9% tax credit now available. It is important to note that while FCD is encouraged about the possibility of receiving the tax credit, receipt is not assured as there will be significant competing demands for the available credits.
 - The earlier version of the LOI included the developer's United Way project. The newer one is simpler now that the two projects have been separated, thus eliminating some areas of concern the combined project may have raised for North.
 - Language has been included regarding our [social principles](#).
 - North must approve the site design and parking remains the top concern.
 - Parking may be restricted as the proposal calls for 100 units.
 - 53 spots could be gained in the playground area. We still need to see the proposed footprint for the development to fully gauge impact on North's parking requirements.
- When the application for the tax credit is made, it will be accompanied by memoranda-of-understanding from the different agencies providing on-site services (such as *Nurse-Family Partnership*) that would support the application.
- The target date is to have the development agreement in place by 1 November, the deadline for Flaherty & Collins to submit the application for the tax credit. In the meantime, the developer is working on seeking the necessary zoning changes on our collective behalf (see [February minutes](#), page 2).
- The motion to approve the letter of intent and to authorize Darren to execute it on behalf of the church was approved unanimously by the board (Kathleen/Mark F.).

Next Steps

- Two land use informational events will be held after Easter.
 - The first will include simple updates on the proposal and its timeline presented to the congregation in a large group setting. We do not anticipate including the developer in the presentation as drawings will not yet be available.
 - Ronnie will organize a separate panel discussion to allow agencies to describe how the lack of appropriate and available housing affects their clients. This session will not focus on the project proper, but on the issues we hope the project will address.
- Darren summarized a conversation he had with [Dr. Bill Lawrence](#) of the Perkins School of Theology at SMU on what the Charge Conference requires in order to authorize the project.
 - Three interrelated votes may be needed
 - To authorize transfer or sale of the identified property pending successful conclusion of the development agreement and in compliance with ¶ 2541 of the *Discipline*
 - To create a foundation pursuant with ¶ 2535 of the *Discipline*

- To direct the newly established foundation to take the steps necessary to implement the developer agreement in accordance with ¶ 2529.5 of the *Discipline*
 - The Charge Conference tentatively is set for September. We may use the small groups prior to the Charge Conference to help provide details and respond to questions and concerns from the church membership.
 - An internal communications plan is needed, especially in light of some discussions the developer will be having with the Butler Tarkington Neighborhood Association.
 - As the proposed development involves district church property, all steps would have to be approved by the district chancellor.
4. Recommendation from Endowment Committee for the Annual Distribution (Darren)
- The Endowment Committee recommends a 3.5% distribution from 2016. This equates to roughly \$190,000. \$160,000 is being allocated to the trustees for the new boiler (see below). The recommendation was approved unanimously.
5. Connectional Discussion Follow-Up (Darren) *see p.2 of January [minutes](#)*
- Darren framed the issue of connection within the larger UMC by posing two questions:
- What does it look like in the Indiana conference?
 - Through **financial support** and the **church tithe**
 - Through **governance of personnel**, including
 - Itinerancy and assignment of pastors
 - Clergy personnel management
 - Retiree care
 - Through **programming**
 - This is the area that has changed the most in recent years, especially following the merger of the two conferences.
 - Current programming focuses on development of local churches, such as new church starts, grants for new worship services, technology, and a fruitful congregation journey through coaching local churches in strategic planning and visioning.
 - Do we become leaders within the conference?
 - What we are *already* doing (beyond the tithe)
 - **Governance of personnel**
 - This is an area of mixed success for North as evidenced by the characteristics of what we wanted for the mission and outreach pastor position and the challenges that poses for us.
 - **Programming**
 - This is an area of greater success as seen in such examples as
 - North's leadership in the Reconciling Ministries Network, led by Sue and Don Childers.

- Through Mark Gilgallon's efforts, hosting the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts ([FUMWA](#)) conference.
- Involvement in a new voluntary network focused on creation care and environmental justice which plays to our Green Team. North will host a conference of this group October 8 and the keynote will also preach here.
- North will host the church's Global Aids Conference October 27-28 2018.
- Supporting [Vida Nueva UMC](#) and helping address its congregants' immigration concerns.
 - 65% of Vida Nueva's congregation are undocumented.
 - About a half-dozen North members have agreed so far to drive these members to Vida Nueva for worship without their worrying about being picked up and deported by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents.
 - Evil is evident when everyday activities such as driving to church are compromised. Providing rides allows us to be connectional in a very concrete way.
- National office leadership, such as Shannon Priddy serving as UMW president.
- Too often LGBTQ youth face a host of challenges that result in suicide. North can play a connectional role by gaining a better understanding of the issues and identifying the most supportive responses and bring those to National Conference.

6. Committee/Board/Senior Pastor Reports

- Finance (John)
 - A major donor gift that typically comes later in the Spring came earlier this year. This makes measuring our contributions-to-budget a bit off for a couple of months.
 - Non-pledge contributions are up.
 - Expenses are down for February and year-to-date. We will continue to see significant savings with reduced expenses for the outside accounting service.
 - Typically, the first quarter gets off to a good start and this year more so than usual.
 - Josh has followed-up with auto-deductions that hadn't been made with North's conversion to the [new system](#) (see [February minutes](#), page 3). We are catching up on moving the last of these recurring donors/gifts to the new system, though this did not affect a lot of people.
- Trustees (Eric O.)
 - Replacing the sanctuary/fellowship hall boiler is anticipated for this summer. The contract and specific timing are yet to be confirmed. We are converting from a boiler to a hot water system that requires much less space.
- Staff Parish Relations Committee *SPRC* (Jim)

- Our major focus continues to be on the issue of staff benefits. Orson Mason has taken a strong leadership role in addressing this topic, and to date has received input from Pastor Darren, Josh Jordan, Bill Groth, John Drake, and an outside consultant in preparing several potential basic philosophies for our committee to consider.
 - These starting points were enthusiastically discussed at the last meeting. Now we are awaiting input from individual committee members, and then we'll proceed from there.
 - We're not rushing forward with this process, but doing our due diligence in an effort to get it right.
- Ministries Council (Eric G.)
 - No report
- Lay Leadership (Kathleen)
 - Kory Bickel was proposed by Lay Leadership as a new member of SPRC. The nomination was approved unanimously by the board.
 - Bob Sachs as a new member of the Endowment Committee. The nomination was approved unanimously by the board.
- Senior Pastor/Administrative
 - The Stewardship Committee looking at the theme for this year's campaign, *Expanding our reach*. Examples of this perspective include the work of UMCOR, and lobbying for improved health care in the US.
 - Making this argument persuasively should help make the case for supporting and increasing payment of the tithe.

7. No Executive Session was required.

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

Upcoming Meeting Dates

2017

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|-------------|---|
| ● April 26 | ● September 27 |
| ● May 24 | ● October 25 |
| ● June 28 | ● November 15 (3 rd Wednesday) |
| ● July 26 | ● December 20 (3 rd Wednesday) |
| ● August 23 | |