

Minutes
North United Methodist Church
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 26, 2017
5:30 p.m.

Members

Shannon Priddy, Chair	John Drake, Treasurer
Ron Gifford, Vice Chair	Eric Galloway (MC/LL)
Kathleen Custer, LL	Faustin N'tala (AL)
Richard Kluger (Finance)	Jeff Eggert (AL)
Jacqueline Blackwell, (LL to AC)	Mark Foglesong (AL)
Mark Grove, Secretary	

Ex Officio

Darren Cushman Wood
Josh Jordan

Absent

Eric Oehler (Trustees)
Jim McDonald (SPRC)

1. Pastor Darren led the group in an opening prayer.
2. The minutes of the 22 March meeting were approved unanimously (Ron/Kathleen).
3. Land Development (Darren)
 - In May we should have an architectural footprint that may be useful in informational sessions for North members.
 - Pastor Darren and Pablo Svirsky will provide a congregational update on May 7th.
 - Ronnie Bell is coordinating a program on May 17th with representatives from [Fathers and Families](#), [Coburn Place](#) and [Nurse Family Partnership](#). The panelists will speak about their missions, challenges and needs for affordable housing for their clients.
 - Flaherty & Collins has been put in contact with the missional partners in order to get a better understanding of their work.
 - Flaherty & Collins is working on zoning matters with the city. The developer also had an information meeting with the Butler Tarkington neighborhood association. The presentation reportedly was warmly received with the neighborhood association expressing an interest in a grocery store as part of the commercial tenants.
4. Signage at the corner of 38th and Meridian St. (Darren)
 - The current sign dates from 1985. There is general agreement the sign is ineffective due to its placement at a busy intersection and the fact that it is hard to read.
 - Though the east side of the church was once the main entrance, parking lots to the west side of the building have left the east side with very little happening in either activity or decoration. Things are slow enough there that some members have been asked if North is still open.
 - A task force to investigate these concerns is being established, beginning with several representatives from Ministries Council (Eric Lekberg, Eric Galloway, and Kelley Warbinton).

- In their discussions-to-date, the group has talked about supplementing the current sign and is looking into legal/zoning restrictions regarding signage along Meridian. They also have identified a need to decorate the east side of the church with season-appropriate banners as well as ways to visually demonstrate community activities consistent with North beliefs, such as support of Pride month.
 - Ministries Council will contact the Trustees to secure additional task force members and report back to the Board at its June meeting.
5. Endowment Report (Josh)
- The Board approved the recommendation for the 2016 distribution at its March meeting.
 - Members discussed any options we may have to combine some of the separate endowment accounts for ease of tracking and as possible greater flexibility in funding church initiatives.
 - Darren reported that the Program Mission Endowment committee (PME) had recently had this same discussion and wants to keep individual accounts in place to honor donor intent rather than combine for ease of management and use.
 - We don't have any "orphaned" endowment funds that due to the nature of a no longer needed or relevant intended goal can't be used.
 - One question that came up whether there is any set amount below which current seldom-used accounts might be candidates for movement to a joint, more flexible account.
 - The group decided to have a general conversation regarding the endowment at the May Board meeting and invite Tom Welch, chair of the committee, to attend.
6. Committee/Board/Senior Pastor Reports
- Finance (Josh)
 - Revenue: Current year pledges and non-pledge gifts both are coming in above budget for the third month in a row. We finished \$9,000 above budget for the month.
 - Expenses: Pension expenses are a bit higher than budget and are likely to continue so through the rest of the year. This is due in large part to increased enrollment of staff members in the pension plan who did not do so in the past.
 - A portion of our audit expense will appear in April expenses.
 - Ministry supplies are a bit higher.
 - Balance sheet: We started to include *totals* and *net change from prior period*.
 - Overall, cash increased \$32,900 from the February statement.
 - Josh will forward future financial and attendance reports to the Board as soon as they have been approved by the Finance Committee. Finance typically meets the week before the Board and earlier distribution will allow Board members more time to review the materials prior to the meeting.
 - Trustees (Eric O.)
 - The trustees approved the replacement of the sanctuary boiler with work beginning sometime in late May or early June and completed by September.

- Staff Parish Relations Committee *SPRC* (Jim)
 - The SPRC did not meet this month and has no report.
 - *See Senior Pastor report below*
- Ministries Council (Eric G.)
 - As noted above, the Ministries Council discussed exterior signage issues.
 - The group completed planning for the Arts festival on [Worship & Arts Sunday](#), May 7th.
 - North will again participate in the [Pride Parade](#) and [Festival](#) on June 10th. The festival will be at Military Park and our booth will be in the area allocated to non-profit organizations. Hospitality, Evangelism & Ministry (HEM) and Justice & Advocacy are working together on planning, with the Affirming Group providing the review-and-nudge role previously the task of the Reconciling Ministries group.
- Lay Leadership (Kathleen)
 - No report
- Senior Pastor/Administrative
 - Pat Thorlton will be retiring next month after serving as our parish nurse for ten years and after thirty years in the profession.
 - We will hold a reception for her after the second service on May 21st, her last day with North.
 - SPRC will be reviewing the position.
 - Summer intern from Duke Leandra Martins will arrive in May. We are still looking for housing for her.
 - Shannon told the group that she ran into a former summer intern while participating in a march in Charlotte, N.C earlier this year. Kathy Bryant, *née* Randall, was an intern at North during Kevin Armstrong’s pastorship and is now a Methodist minister in North Carolina.
 - Program staff will meet on May 14th for Fall planning which will then go to Ministries Council.

7. No Executive Session was held.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Endowment conversation • June 28 • July 26 • August 23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 27 • October 25 • November 15 (3rd Wednesday) • December 20 (3rd Wednesday) |
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