

Minutes
North United Methodist Church
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, April 27, 2016
5:30 p.m.

Members

Todd Daniels-Howell, Chair	John Drake, Treasurer
Shannon Priddy, Vice Chair	Margaret Mayo (AL)
Jim McDonald (SPRC)	Mark Foglesong (AL)
Richard Kluger (Finance)	Mark Grove, Secretary

Ex Officio

Darren Cushman Wood

Absent

Kathleen Custer, (LL)
Sarah Moore (AL)
Linda McClain (LL to AC)
Eric Galloway (MC /LL)
Josh Jordan
Eric Oehler (Trustees)

1. Pastor Darren led the group in an opening prayer.
2. The minutes of the March 23rd, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously.
3. Finances Review (Richard)
 - Software is being converted, delaying financial statements.
 - There are some hiccups as the membership database isn't talking to the financial database. Customer service from the vendor is lacking.
 - North has a term loan with a balloon payment due in August. Discussions are underway with the bank for refinancing.
 - Auditor's on-site work is done with their draft report expected in May.
 - Pledge payments are running about \$18,000 behind budget. However, we anticipate receiving a large annual donation in the coming weeks that will move us back into positive territory in this budget line. We are \$56,000 in pledged payments ahead of the same point last year.
 - Non-pledged income continues to decline (ideally as a result of more people moving to pledged gifts).
 - Total revenue is down about \$36,000. Again, however, the anticipated large gift noted above should get us back to even.
 - In expenses, salaries, wages, and pension costs are down, generally the result of the vacancy in the Mission and Outreach position. Ronnie Bell doesn't arrive until 1 July.
 - As mentioned last month and in the SPRC report, we anticipate significant savings in staff health insurance effective 2017. Bids will be formally solicited in the fall, but at this point savings next year may be as much as \$40,000.

4. Endowment Policy review (Todd)
 - Postponed as it was deemed to need additional review by the Endowment Committee

5. Land Development/Forums for Understanding review (Darren)
 - Four sessions were held in April.
 - April 3: Great Places Initiative & North's Land Development
 - April 10: North's Land Development Vision
 - April 17: Early Childhood Development & Land Development
 - April 24: Environmental Issues & Land Development
 - The first two had the larger attendance (50-60), though attendance held up well for the latter two sessions (30-40 attendees).
 - The session on North's Vision was probably the most important. A number of questions were offered to take the pulse of the audience. 10-12 responses are back so far, some with lengthy comments.
 - Flaherty & Collins has asked whether North would be willing to explore possible connections with its upcoming development of the United Way property.
 - Doing so may make it easier for their project management, though we'd still need to separate out the equity for an agreement as well as address our issues and requirements on land use.
 - May help make the developer more invested in our project.
 - Members agreed to listen, though we need more information on what sharing the project would entail, including pros and cons, before we are in a position to respond.
 - Looking for the draft agreement by mid-August.
 - In continuing our consultation with the membership, what would the listening process look like? We know we need to provide greater clarity and transparency if we are to build a sense of ownership.
 - Mark and Mark offered to help Darren and Pablo Svirsky in designing the model.
 - The process used for the inclusiveness and RMN discussions in 2011 may be appropriate. One goal of that experience was to develop a model that may be used in the future for a similar consultation/discernment process so to save reinventing the wheel.
 - Board members might attend the groups to highlight that we are paying attention, though probably not lead discussions lest we be seen as being overly directive. Darren has names for possible facilitator/discussion leaders.

6. Committee/Board/Senior Pastor Reports
 - Trustees (Eric)
 - No report
 - SPRC (Jim)
 - SPRC three main areas of focus

- Evaluating different staff health insurance options for next year. As noted in Richard’s report, discussions with an insurance broker look promising.
 - Anne’s sabbatical planning continues. Josh Beach, youth ministry intern, is seen as well-positioned to take over in an interim role
 - Ronnie Bell begins work in July and will first preach on 10 July. This will be followed by a welcoming reception in the courtyard.
- Ministries Council (Eric)
 - No report
- Lay Leadership (Kathleen)
 - At Lay Leadership’s April meeting:
 - Names were suggested for the Reconciling Ministries Network Chair.
 - Previewed list of committee members rotating off in 2016. There are some important roles to fill.
 - Discussed helping fill sub-committees / non-charge conference committees while increasing the number of church members participating.
 - Looking at possible term-limits in recruiting so that one isn’t appointed for life.
- Senior Pastor (Darren)
 - We are consulting with [Hirons](#), an Indianapolis public relations firm that has experience in working with churches and other non-profits. The Communications team has had an interview with one staff member of the PR firm and we are setting up a second meeting that will include HEM as well as Communications. Employing such a firm is seen as useful in
 - Developing research-based external communications.
 - Working with HEM with ideas on following up with visitors.
 - The recommendations on giving from the Strategic Directions report will take a bit longer, though the Stewardship Committee has begun work on preparing for the next campaign.

7. No Executive Session was held
 See [January 2015 minutes](#), page 6, item 7

Upcoming Meeting Dates

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|---------------------------|---|
| • May 25 | • September 28 |
| ○ Endowment Policy review | • October 26 |
| • June 22 | • November 16 (3 rd Wednesday) |
| • July 27 | • December 21 (3 rd Wednesday) |
| • August 24 | |

Future Topics

- Communications report on targeted advertising
- Flower shop
- Innovation Fund