

**Minutes**  
**North United Methodist Church**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**July 22, 2015**

**Members**

Todd Daniels-Howell, Chair	John Drake, Treasurer
Lee Tumminello (Trustees)	Eric Galloway (MC/LL)
Jim McDonald (SPRC)	Margaret Mayo (AL)
Nick Tumminello (Finance)	Kathleen Custer, LL
Mark Grove, Secretary	Bill Groth (AL)

**Absent**

Shannon Priddy, Vice Chair  
Sara Moore (AL)  
Darren Cushman Wood  
Linda McClain (LL to AC)

1. The minutes of May 27, 2015 were approved.
  - *The June meeting was cancelled*
  
2. Endowment Committee Report (Todd/Darren)
  - The committee met in mid-July.
    - It was determined that the 2012 distribution had been approved but as was the then-new policy of the Board, the funds were left with the Foundation, a decision reversed in 2014. The 2012 distribution is *still* with the Foundation; 2013 was distributed.
    - After conferring with the Foundation and the auditors, we can still move the 2012 distribution. As reported below, the additional funds will help with paying for the staged replacement of our HVAC system.
  - The Endowment Committee recommends a 4.5% distribution for 2014 with the increase based on performance and with the afore-mentioned project in mind.
    - The recommendation was approved unanimously by the Board.
  - The Endowment Committee provided guidance for the 2015 distribution of no less than 2% but no more than 4.5%. The committee will meet in October and then again in January 2016 to make the final determination. This should be in time for action at the Board's January meeting.
  
3. Task Force on Strategic Direction update (Shannon)
  - With two sessions complete, we are trying not to lose momentum.
    - We looked at the stewardship survey and some of the responses it garnered. We are looking at what that can mean for our financial discussions.
  - Next steps/objectives
    - Look outside of North, what would bring more people to North. What is missing from North?
    - Good to great-testing our strengths. What are our weaknesses?
    - Explicit definition of membership
    - Quantify "good"
  - Our next meeting is August 2 after second service

#### 4. Stewardship Committee report (Todd)

- The Committee has asked if board members would be willing to make targeted contacts via e-mail or phone prior to Stewardship Sunday. If agreeable, each Board member would contact ten North members who don't pledge or may have done so in the past but haven't recently. A script would be provided.
  - Phone calls are more of a connecting method—the personal touch. Through such a conversation we may also learn why someone chose not to give.
  - Making the contacts ahead of Stewardship Sunday may be more acceptable as it (ideally) would be seen as an encouragement to participate rather than nagging for not having pledged yet.
- Board members agreed to make the contacts. In an effort to make the process more comfortable for all concerned, a list will be circulated from which each member would select approximately ten names of people they already know.

#### 5. Committee/Board/Senior Pastor Reports

- Trustees (Lee)
  - The Trustees received a presentation from Irish Mechanical for a new HVAC system. Irish Mechanical has been working with Joel O'Neil on the proposal. The Trustees learned that 90% of the HVAC components are 20 years or older; all are past the usual lifespan.
  - Installing a new system would be done in stages, with work done first in the Education wing, followed by a new boiler, and finally components that serve the office and Community Room.
  - In lieu of the work required to seek a second quote, the proposal is being reviewed by knowledgeable member of the congregation to confirm that the bid looks fair.
  - With the endowment funding currently available we have nearly enough for the 1<sup>st</sup> phase on the project.
  - Todd told the Board that he has asked Marie Powell to look into the roughly \$950,000 that North has in its checking and money market accounts to see if any of that may be available to apply toward the project.
  - **Community Room**—before we spend much more time on planned renovations to the kitchen, we need to think long-term about how that room will be used. Eric Steele has been asked about long-term plans regarding mission for Bread n' Bowl. For example, if soup will no longer be served weekly (a step taken this summer), the room may not require as much work.
- SPRC (Jim)
  - The SPRC discussed the arrivals of new Finance Director Joshua Jordan and Minister of Children and Families Amy Sell and how to welcome them.
    - Joshua will be part-time, starting 8/17, and will report to Darren.
    - Amy starts September 1<sup>st</sup> and Anne will help with the transition through September.

- On September 13<sup>th</sup> a small reception will be held after the second service to allow the congregation to meet Amy. North members will be encouraged to extend the welcome and the larger Indianapolis community by inviting her to small groups, meals, etc.
  - The SPRC is reviewing and revising the employee handbook. This has been done every couple of years which in retrospect is too often. The document may have too much policy and needs to focus more on procedure. Jeremy Warriner and Rosie Jordan will work on this with a goal of shortening the handbook. Bill Groth offered to review the revised version from a legal perspective.
  - Darren has nine teacher slots filled for Sunday School time; curricula have been set.
- Ministries Council (Eric)
  - The council did not meet this month.
- Finance (Nick)
  - YTD through June shows North's accounts in a pretty strong position.
  - Giving is about \$75,000 over plan for 2015. We have had a couple of big gifts in the spring by members making annual payments, but that doesn't account for all the increase.
  - Non-pledge contributions are down about \$20,000. We may be having some members who made non-pledged donations in the past converted to pledged.
  - Giving is moving into the slower summer months.
  - We are \$11,000 below plan on revenue as bequests intended to supplement the budget have not yet been moved and, if giving continues at its current pace, may not be needed
  - Expenses are down; about \$40,000 below plan for the first half of the year.
  - Quarterly statements will be sent shortly.
- Lay Leadership (Kathleen)
  - The committee is beginning to plan for *Celebration of Ministries* on September 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - In leadership training back in January Lay Leadership looked for ideas of some short-term, specific projects that may draw members to participate who may not have done so previously, perhaps concerned about on-going time commitments.
  - Lay Leadership looked at major committee positions with chairs rotating off in 2016 and starting to look now at names. Lay Leadership welcomes suggestions
- Chair (Todd)
  - No additional report
- Senior Pastor (Todd on behalf of Darren)
  - We may need to have a special Charge Conference to endorse Eric Steele in his progression toward ordination.

- Kathleen told the group that the annual Charge Conference will be held on November 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at North. Two other congregations will also hold their Charge Conferences at North at the same time.
6. No Executive Session was held.
- See [January 2015 minutes](#), page 6, item 7.

### **Upcoming Meeting Dates**

August 26

- Capital campaign

September 23

October 28

November 16<sup>th</sup>

- Charge Conference (Joint) 6:30 at North

November 18 (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday)

December 16 (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday)

### **Future Topics**

- Communications report on targeted advertising
- Flower shop
- Innovation Fund
- Emergency preparedness plan
  - Operational Review *Darren and staff*