

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, February 27, 2013

Members present

Ron Gifford, Vice Chair	James Hamstra (SPRC)
Troy Barker (Trustees)	Linda McClain (LL to AC)
Jacqueline Blackwell (AL)	Angela Ockerman-Jones (AL)
Kathleen Custer, LL	Nick Tumminello (Finance)
Eric Galloway (COM /LL)	
Mark Grove, Secretary	

Members absent

Ann Mackey, Chair
Charles Young, Treasurer
Bill Groth (AL)

Ex Officio present

Darren Cushman Wood
Jim Thieman, CBA

Ron served as chair in Ann's absence

1. Approval of Minutes of January 23, 2013 Board meeting
 - Minutes approved (Custer)

2. Financial Report (Jim)
 - While our collections to this point are somewhat below budget, Jim is not too worried as he believes people were still paying off Christmas expenses.
 - Income also may be down when compared with this point in previous years due in part to some donors making large gifts/annual gifts at the start of the year in past years but not yet for 2013. Jim will review past patterns and have more information at a future meeting.
 - \$1,839 in 2012 pledges were paid in January 2013. Jim is going to review January and February to make sure gifts were credited to the donor's requested year (2012 or 2013).
 - Expenses are pretty well in line.
 - We'll take a closer look at the overall after the first quarter to see where we stand.

Recommendation for change in accounting practice

- It is our current practice that designated funds and endowment funds are not maintained as part of our general ledger. This can result in confusing entries when money from those accounts is spent for certain expenses such as purchase of the new chiller.
 - Jim recommended moving to a fund accounting basis for these funds, moving them into the general ledger as another fund with its own cash balance rather than current net asset accounts. The balance of unspent money in these designated and endowed funds would still be segregated and would roll forward to the next year's budget, but would be more transparent and easier to track. It also would make the cash flow much easier.
 - This step would be consistent with *Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)*.
 - Nick reported that this proposal had a full discussion within the Finance Committee and received its support. Following a motion from the Finance Committee to move to fund accounting, the board approved the proposal unanimously.
3. Update on Capital Campaign (Darren)
 - Jim, Darren, and consultant Chris Kindlesberger met to plan for restarting the capital campaign. Darren told board members he is still putting the team together.

- We need to finalize the re-launch date which likely will be a Sunday in May with a goal of hitting the target of having \$614,000 in pledges by December 31st. Darren added that we have a brochure.

4. Update on Illinois Street/Flower Shop (Ron)

- Ron summarized where things stand regarding environmental testing, the escrow process, and the comfort letter we seek from IDEM before moving forward on accepting the proposed gift.
 - The testing firm has suggested some additional testing because of the former use of the site as a gas station. There are still some open questions, including financial obligations and some title issues.
 - To this point we have not yet found any issues that would cause us to decline the gift, but more study (along with an acceptable comfort letter) before we move forward on closing.
 - Additional details on these issues appear in the board’s January minutes.
- On a related point, we need to maintain our connection to the Task Force on Illinois Street so that we are aware of proposals for possible development. One issue is if we chose to get involved in development of some of our property facing Illinois, how would we go first as a catalyst for the neighborhood?

5. Update on Inclusion Activities (Darren)

- Results of surveys and related items from the final report of the 2011 Inclusiveness Task Force were used in developing North’s Long Range Plan.
- One key outcome of the inclusiveness process was North affiliating with the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN). Having taken that step we should consider additional ways of working with RMN. Darren will bring this to the next meeting of the Ministries Council. Please send Darren any suggestions for possible team members.
- Broadway United Methodist is hosting an office for RMN. We need to be involved, especially at the conference level. We are easily the largest Indiana UM congregation to affiliate with RMN.

Other Indiana reconciling churches or communities include:

Broadway UMC	Reconciling Church	Indianapolis
Church of the Saviour	Reconciling Church	Indianapolis
Crescent Avenue UMC	Prospective Reconciling Church	Fort Wayne
Friends of Thomas	Reconciling Community	Indianapolis
Gobin Memorial UMC Greencastle	Reconciling Church	Greencastle
Nashville UM Social Concerns Committee	Reconciling Community	Nashville
Nomads Sunday School Class	Reconciling Community	Bloomington
North UMC	Reconciling Church	Indianapolis
Power and Light Sunday School Class	Reconciling Community	Indianapolis
Amazing Grace Class of North UMC	Reconciling Community	Indianapolis
Reconciling Community Within the Indiana Conference	Reconciling Community	Fort Wayne

The Open and Affirming Group	Reconciling Community	Bloomington
Trinity UMC of Lafayette	Reconciling Church	Lafayette

Source: RMN [website](#) 3/14/2013

6. Update on Endowment Committee (Darren)
 - We have three vacancies on the committee. Darren recommended Tom Welch be elected as chair and Gordon Evans added as an at-large member. Following separate motions by Ron, the nominees were unanimously approved by the board to serve in the positions noted above.
 - The Chair of the Board of Directors is a member of the Endowment Committee.
 - Darren told the group that the *Book of Discipline* stated that there should be a conscious effort made in socially responsible investing of church funds. Darren will take a look at how closely the Foundation is honoring this requirement and report back to the board at a future meeting.

7. Ministries Council and Advocacy Issues (Eric)
 - From time-to-time, North members express an interest in speaking on behalf of the church on social, justice, or related issues. The intent of doing so is to add additional weight to the desired position by speaking on behalf of the congregation and not just as an individual.
 - Given this interest, North needs to develop a mechanism to consider such requests and to endorse/support the request when appropriate. This includes determining if the positions being advocated are consistent with established North policy and member standards. We recognize that while there are some areas in which the church may appropriately take a public stand, there are others where we should not.
 - Eric and Darren proposed a model in which the authority to approve speaking on behalf of North be delegated to the Ministries Council with appropriate constraints such as requiring a certain level of votes by that group to endorse a specific request.
 - Board members discussed whether adopting such a mechanism changes the role of North to one of becoming an *Advocacy Church*. Is this a step that can or should be taken through action of the board as the elected representatives of the church or does it warrant a larger discussion? A related question is whether such a model would give the Ministries Council the authority to originate a public position on behalf of North in addition to endorsing requests from North members to speak on behalf of the congregation.
 - Following additional discussion, members agreed that Eric and Darren would draft a policy statement for consideration by the board at the March meeting. This statement should include a rationale for the policy, a formal process, and the level of vote required. Members also suggested that the procedure might include a step to inform the full congregation of a request and that it will be an item for discussion/vote at the Ministries Council for those who may wish to attend and speak for or against.
 - On a side note, Darren told members that 40 people have committed to the Green Team planning meeting.

8. Report from Darren
 - He is continuing to work on staff issues and some reassignments
 - At least 8 small Lenten groups have formed around the Lenten study guide

- A new member class just wrapped up with approximately six new members being formally welcomed to North on Palm Sunday. The next new member class will be in the fall.

9. Executive Session

- Members of the Board retired to a brief executive session.

Future Board Meetings

March 27, 2013	August 28, 2013
April 24, 2013	September 25, 2013
May 22, 2013	October 23, 2013
June 26, 2013	November 20 (not 27), 2013
July 24, 2013	December 18 (not 25), 2013

Future topics

- Review Endowment Policy