

MCC Board of Directors Minutes – Regular Meeting

September 16, 2014

Members Present: Rev. Dwayne Johnson, Mark Kornmann, Fenicia Ballard, Kathleen Carey, Knut Panknin, David Lord, Dave Jenkins (via telephone)

Members Absent: None

Guests Present: Rev. Cathy Alexander, Tom Simmons, Joe Dailey, Jim Garner

I. Call to Order/Opening Prayer

Dwayne called the meeting to order at 7:01 and opened with prayer.

II. Agenda

Mark moved to accept the agenda. David Lord seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Consent Agenda

Kathleen moved to accept the consent agenda. Knut seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Informational Items

A. 472 Renovations

Mark reported that the 472 Working Group met with Crescent Property Management and Antoinette to discuss various issues related to the property. The meeting was very productive. Crescent did a walk-through to point out issues that they thought would be important to maximizing rent potential. The aim is to have an open house on October 24th in order to facilitate renting in November. The property appears to be on schedule as outlined in the proposed change order. This change order has not yet been formally executed as it is still undergoing a legal/language review.

David Lord moved to affirm the prior vote taken by email to authorize spending up to \$3,000 from capital projects for the purpose of hiring Mark Ringel's firm to assist in subdividing the 472 and 474 property. [This is to be done in order to facilitate a three unit certificate of occupancy being issued for 472 and to assist in the corresponding easement issues]. Kathleen seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mark Kornmann reported that Mark Ringel has to be given the final survey and that Mr. Ringel thinks the process will be expedited in such a way that he can get the necessary permits for rental prior to November. Mr. Ringel will present different options to the Church for addressing the easement issue.

The 472 Working Group and Trustees will continue to address issues related to providing internet and security to the 472 property.

B. Trustees

The Trustees are currently working on addressing the issues related to grading in the electrical room as well as window washing and landscaping. The painting of the sanctuary room looks good. Brian Scott met with Uncle Skeeter and they are planning to come out to the Church and redo some of the work on the roof.

C. Treasurer's Report

Kathleen reported that we are still waiting for material and answers from Katz regarding bookkeeping issues. As a result, we are moving forward with a process to find a different CPA to review the books.

August was a particularly trying month in terms of revenue. One thing that did help is that there were five Sundays in the month. This being said, we are doing well overall in terms of income compared to expenses. We are in a net positive of \$12,000 for the year, even though we are not making budget. This number is slightly skewed because over \$8,000 has been taken from contingency/reserves to assist with the mortgage on a monthly basis while 472 has been under construction. Once 472 has renters however, the income should completely cover the mortgage.

David Lord moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Fenicia seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

D. Congregational Meeting

In preparation for this year's congregational meeting, Board members should brainstorm a list of accomplishments from the prior year. Rev. Cathy distributed a list of members who will receive a letter asking whether they want to retain their membership in MCCDC. This is the annual roll review that is done in accordance with the bylaws. Board members should review this list and provide feedback to Cathy.

E. Clergy Taxes/Financial Review

Rev. Cathy reported that while SunTrust helps us facilitate tax withholding, they can't meaningfully assist with this bookkeeping function. As a result, we need to have an accountant create an appropriate methodology for accounting for clergy taxes. This should be rolled into the financial review.

Kathleen reported that we need to have the financial books reviewed to straighten out journal entries. Katz has not given a satisfactory response which is why we are now looking to other vendors. Kathleen, Cathy, and Lance have given themselves an internal deadline of September 22nd to make a recommendation to the Board for how to proceed on a general review of the books to include the clergy tax issue. The group is looking at several different possible accountants and at least one candidate has been interviewed.

V. Discussion/Voting Items

A. AV Proposal

A consensus has developed that the AV proposal previously presented to the Board is an initiative that the Board supports. There is concern with financially/legally committing to this, however, prior to the income situation stabilizing with the 472 property. The total cost of the project is \$95,000. Some of the ways that we could look to funding the

proposal include: specific fundraising from the congregation, looking to capital project funds, looking to the Buchanan Fund, exploring grants, and extracting additional equity. Dwayne suggested that the year-end fundraising drive should be specific to this project – that the new AV system is a gift to ourselves, our church, and our community.

David Lord moved to approve the previously proposed AV initiative, contingent on the contract not formally being executed until the Board has approved a method of funding the proposal. The Vice Moderator is authorized to put together a working group to assist in identifying potential funding for this initiative. Fenicia seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

B. Restroom Parity Proposal

Discussion occurred on the importance of ensuring that the transition to single use restrooms occurs smoothly and that there is appropriate signage as well as usher training and congregational messaging.

David Lord moved to approve the previously presented proposal on restroom parity. Mark seconded the motion. The motion was approved 6-1 (Voting yes: Rev. Dwayne, Mark, Dave Jenkins, David Lord, Kathleen Carey, and Knut. Voting no: Fenicia).

C. Church Growth

Rev. Dwayne reported that the group exploring this issue has had three follow-up meetings. The conversation has centered on four issues: engagement, marketing, promoting a culture of growth, and identifying something distinctive for which MCCDC can be known. There is ongoing work on developing a distinctive logo for MCCDC. Mark has been working with one of the new members who is a graphic designer. Rev. Dwayne commented on the philosophy that a growing church needs to connect with God, each other and with the community. In 2015 we need to look at another deliberative process to address the issue of what makes MCCDC distinctive/unique in a way that can be communicated. The format for this discussion would include a congregational survey, a small group process, to be concluded with actionable items. One of the questions that we would be asking would include what is the target need for MCCDC?

Dwayne asked the Board to look at the initial report and identify anything that is missing. Church growth will be a large part of the pastor's report for the congregational meeting.

Other engagement ideas that were discussed include the possibility of creating a calendar consisting of art created by the congregants; targeting four occasions each year where the congregation is specifically called to invite someone to attend; and having the pastor engage in daily affirming tweets or internet feeds.

Mark emphasized the importance of addressing cohesiveness and answering what is the big picture in developing a growth initiative. Mark also stressed that while we maintain our connection to the fellowship we need to make sure that we give voice to the local church.

Cathy asked members to contact her with ideas regarding this initiative.

D. Bylaw Changes

This is the time to look at potential bylaw changes. Mark emphasized two that he believed are important. This would include allowing two household members to serve on the Trustees at the same time and to clear up language about the amendment process. Proposed changes should be emailed to David Lord prior to the next meeting.

VI. Executive Session

The Board went into Executive session by consent. Kathleen moved to exit executive session. Mark seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. Adjournment/Closing Prayer

Kathleen moved to adjourn at 9:26 p.m. Knut seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. David Lord closed the meeting in prayer.