



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

*July 18, 2017, 7PM*

**Members Present:** Moderator Rev. Dwayne Johnson, Jim Garner, Tim Helm, Vice Moderator, Knut Panknin, Bobbi Strang

**Guests Present:** Rev. Cathy Alexander, Johanna Hardy, Lauren Bennett

### Opening Prayer

**The meeting started at 7:10pm**

1. Song and Scripture- Tim (scripture: Philippians 4 – Rejoice in the Lord...)

**Knut moved to accept agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bobbi; Motion was unanimously adopted.**

**Knut moved to accept the consent calendar items; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bobbi; Motion was unanimously adopted.**

2. Consent Calendar (5 minutes)

- Clerk's Report
- Sr. Pastor's Report
- Trustees Report – no report

3. Informational Items: (25 minutes)

- The Board shared the following "Shout-Outs"
  - Worship team for the best worship service on July 16 at 11am
  - Rev. Cathy, Jacqueline Laughlin, Imani Woody-Macko for women's gathering
  - Rev. Robin Gorsline for workshop and men's gathering
  - John Merriwether and Courtney La Prince for YAM's leadership
  - Jules Christian for Drama ministry
  - Cassandra Hardisson for Health Fair
- 472 Rental Update – Tim
  - Unit 2 (upstairs) has been rented for the same rate (\$3,000); no parking space; 12 months lease
  - Since it was rented so quickly, there will be no gap in income flow
- M Street Lot Proposal Update – Tim and Jim
  - Tim and Jim shared that they had met with two law firms on possible representation of the church on various legal matters (development/real estate offer; 472 third unit development; arbitration concerning previous contractor and the need for an easement). They shared the proposal from BluSky with law firms and shared our legal representation needs and they tried to ask them the same questions during the interview. The two proposals received from the lawyers (Cozen and Glazer) were shared with the Board.
  - The Board discussed the proposals and the experience of each law firm and whether we should hire one to do all work or whether different types of work can be divided between the lawyers. In response to a question about the general impression of capacity of each, it was noted that both appeared qualified; Cozen more experienced dealing with developers and in dealing with the District government.

- The Board discussed possible worst-case scenarios, but determines that this proposal is too significant of a possible opportunity for the church not to at least pursue it and that there is a very real need for legal talent with extensive experience in development work.
  - The Board decided it was best to divide the work among the two firms. The Board took action – **see motion described below under Discussion/Voting Items.**
  - A “shout out” to Brian Scott was shared for setting this in motion – planting the seed of possible sale of “air rights” to the M Street property.
- Board Vacancy – Knut
  - Knut talked to congregant with discernment by Sunday
  - Please send additional names to Knut/Dwayne
- Items from retreat with Ministry leaders – All
  - Board Fundraiser training; Cathy will meet with trainer from Raben group tomorrow; will send out chapter with manual
- Church Alcohol Policy – Rev. Cathy
  - A possible new policy on alcohol use on church property was discussed as an informational item and the Board was encouraged to share feedback.
  - It was noted that we have lost building rentals for weddings, etc., because we do not allow alcohol to be served in church.
  - The discussion focused on risk management as a concern and value based discussion on serving alcohol in a church. Other topics included DC alcohol licenses (a suggestion was made to limit use to wine and beer only). Also, the Board discussed MCCDC’s umbrella insurance policy that covers all kinds of things (personal liability 500k and damage to property 2 M.) A question was raised about liability coverage if a person leaves and is in an accident as an intoxicated driver. The security deposit amount was discussed and it was noted the insurance deductible is \$2,500.
  - Another possible approach is to confine authorization to weddings and holy unions.
  - It was also discussed that the use of alcohol may place additional pressure on staff who keep church open during events. Another concern is whether the church should be in solidarity with those struggling with addiction and in recovery.
  - Suggestions to consider additional information: How many event proposals had to be turned down because we would not serve alcohol? What do other MCCs do? Interview Vicky Gibbs of Resurrection MCC on their alcohol policy.
- Live Stream Contract Renewal – Johanna Hardy
  - Johanna shared that we will soon be at a decision point for the renewal of the live stream service in November. She also shared that we really need a dedicated line to fully optimize the service. This would also allow for an on-line donation option with the service.
  - Johanna signed up for the service called “Stripe” (on-line donation app) to try it out; we don’t know whether we get any donations through live stream; she suggested exploring trial period
  - Tim asked if we need to find money for new features now or put in 2018 budget?
  - The consensus appeared to be that we need to find a path forward to optimize this resource for delivering our church’s message and mission.
  - Johanna will confirm costs with “Stripe” and ask for reasons for delay in payment, which was one concern from other users of this service; will also ask about costs of dedicated line with Comcast

#### 4. Discussion/Voting Items: (45 minutes)

- Treasurer's Report – Tim
  - Tim: Expenses close to where we should be; around 50% of year after 6 months
  - Cathy: 5260 expenses; 5140 insurance / income: higher through easy tithe; fundraising has impact; on par for rental and building usage
  - Credit card: The balance has been paid down to \$3,500; recurring charges down and used only for what is necessary or required to be paid by card.
  - Budget planning 2018: Tim noted that we need to start thinking of any new ministry and anticipated expenses etc.
  - Exploring American Sign Language (ASL) offering to 11am service
  - **Motion to receive treasurer's was made by Jim; 2nd by Bobbi; and approved unanimously**
  - Summer giving and community partner outreach – Rev. Cathy
    - Weekly messaging; another round and rotation of Board members will occur (Knut: offering message on July 30; we can also introduce someone – how did church change lives?)
    - Backpacks4Kids – starting next week with NBC4
- Revival Fundraising – Rev. Cathy
  - Rev. Cathy gave an update on progress on revival planning and budget. Rev. Sam will lead music service Friday night; community service Saturday during day
  - **Tim moved to approve fundraising for the Revival based on the estimated provided by Rev. Cathy (approx. \$3,200) and that any net difference would go to or come from the General Fund. Knut seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**
- Legal Representation
  - **Bobbi moved that we go back to Glazer and request a new proposal concerning the easement and the arbitration projects and that we accept the proposal from Cozen for the representation on the BlueSky development proposal and matters concerning the third unit of 472 Ridge Street. The motion also included approval to use funds from the 472 project loan at Eagle Bank to cover the retainer and on-going legal costs for the M Street lot negotiations and the possible 472-related project resolution. Jim seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously adopted.**
- Strategic Planning Update – Rev. Dwayne
  - Rev. Dwayne provided a status report on strategic planning efforts. He said he had a conversation with Don Eastman and that we should review his report; Cathy working with consultant suggested by member; Rev. Dwyane is activating a team to serve as the planning group. He has not recruited from the Board, but Board members are welcome to participate. This item will be kept on the agenda of Board meetings. The next meeting will be August 26<sup>th</sup> (Sat) retreat for planning 10am-1pm. Knut is considering attending.

#### 5. Announcements/Events

- Angel Collie, TRANSformation weekend, July 22-23, 2017
- People of African Descent Conference, St. Louis, August 3-5, 2017
- UF CDC/MCCDC Anniversary Service at **12pm** & Cookout and Potluck, August 13, 2017
- Revival @ MCCDC, September 15-17, 2017

#### 6. Executive Session

- At 9:07pm, **Knut moved that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel item. The motion was seconded by Tim, and it was unanimously approved.**
- At 9:20pm, **Bobbi moved to exit executive session. Jim seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.**

#### Adjournment/Closing Prayer

At 9:22pm, **Jim moved to adjourn the meeting. Bobbi seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.**

**“What did we do in tonight's meeting that helped us accomplish our mission?”**

