



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

October 17, 2017, 7PM

Members Present: Moderator Rev. Dwayne Johnson, Lilah Blackstone, Jim Garner, Tim Helm, Bobbi Strang, and Monika Lawrence. Vice Moderator Knut Panknin was absent due to travel in Germany.

Guests: Rev. Cathy Alexander and Lauren Bennett

Opening Prayer

The meeting started at 7:10pm

1. Song and Scripture- Rev Dwayne Johnston shared Philippians 4:4, 6-9 from the Message Bible
Bobbi Strang shared the song: Just to Be Held, by Casting Crowns
For November's meeting, Jim Garner will provide the scripture and Monika Lawrence will have the song.

Motion to accept the Agenda was made by Bobbi and seconded by Lilah Blackstone; Motion was unanimously adopted.

Rev. Dwayne reported that the congregation contributed a total of \$666 for Resurrection MCC in Houston to help in their recovery after Hurricane Harvey.

2. **Bobbi moved to receive the consent calendar items; seconded by Jim; Motion was unanimously adopted.**

Consent Calendar

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

3. Informational Items:

- The Board shared the following "Shout-Outs"
 - Jackie Laughlin for her selection to receive a competitive scholarship to the "Cultivating the Scholar-Activist: Trans-disciplinary Pathways to Racial Justice" conference at Vanderbilt University.
 - Jackie Laughlin for her leadership the delivery of Financial Peace University and her role with the pastoral care ministry.
 - Jules Christian for her leadership in the Drama Ministry and for initiating the Intercessory Prayer Ministry.
 - Johanna Hardy for shepherding through the Live Stream enhancement and resolving issues with the service provider.
 - Robin Anderson for commitment regarding the Older Adult Ministry and for instructing the new Hand Dancing activity, which generated a significant level of interest and participation.
- M Street Lot Proposal Update – Tim and Jim
 - Tim reported that since our last meeting we have received revised offers/proposals (higher amounts) for the purchase of the M Street Lot from both developers -- Lock 7 (\$900,000 and 3-4 parking spaces) and A3 (\$955,000). The Board engaged in extensive

conversation about the proposals, include whether to pursue the sale and if so, whether to pursue Option A (sale of lot with no further involvement) or Option B (sale with ongoing role and connection with the church to pursue zoning change to allow more than 4 units).

- The consensus that emerged from the Board is to pursue Option A and seek/confirm that the offers from the developers are the best and final and also ask if there is any changes to the offers to allow more parking.
 - The Next Steps discussed were to review any received final information and offers from the developers and conduct an email vote to select a proposal to recommend to the congregation at the upcoming Congregational Forum on November 5. Tim and Jim volunteer to develop draft Questions and Answers for the Board to review and edit – Tim and Jim will prepare the draft FAQs by October 29 and Board will review and approve by October 31. These will be distributed to attendees of the Congregation Forum. Tim will contact Cozen and O’Connor to reach out to A3 (to confirm final offer amount and whether any parking can be included) and Lock 7 (to confirm final offer amount). He will share responses with Board and then the Board will conduct an email vote to select a proposal to recommend.
- Arbitration: Jim reported he had not made any progress on this project, but he is still working on it. There was discussion of a need for an attorney to take on this project. Bobbi said that she may have a lead on a possible attorney and will share contact information.
 - Board and Trustees Vacancy – Knut
 - Rev. Dwayne reported that Knut continues to work on this task and will require a later email vote by the board. There are three Board positions that are to be voted on at the upcoming Congregational Meeting. Rev. Dwayne encouraged each Board member to look for possible candidates for these positions. announced that Monika Lawrence is willing to serve as an interim Board member to fill the vacancy created with John Merriweather’s relocation to Texas.
 - Strategic Planning Update – Rev. Dwyane reported that the strategic planning work group have had two meetings since the last Board meeting (September 30 and October 14). There is a good core group of congregants involved in the work group and there has been good Board and staff representation at the meetings. The group has established a timeline for developing a plan. Rev. Dwayne feels they have established a good process for accomplishing this goal.
4. Discussion and Voting Items.
5. Treasurer’s Report – Tim presented his report on the 2017 budget. **Bobbi made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report and Tim seconded the motion. The Motion was unanimously approved.**
6. 2018 Budget Planning – Tim shared that he and Rev. Cathy are working on developing the proposed budget for 2018. It will require an email vote by the board prior to the Congregational Forum. Tim noted that the budget will be impacted by the decision on the sale of the M Street lot. We need to continue to diversify our funding streams to include more rental income (developing the third unit at 472 Ridge Street) and expand into investment income (investing proceeds of sale of M Street if the church decides to pursue that approach). If we are not able to diversify funding, it will limit what can be accomplished in the developing strategic plan and in addressing other needs of the church. We need to continue our efforts to look for income beyond simply the offering plate.

7. Congregational Meeting Agenda – Rev. Dwayne shared a draft agenda for the upcoming Congregational Meeting. **Bobbi moved to approve the Congregational Meeting Agenda as drafted. Tim seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**
- Church Alcohol Policy – After notice of a possible implementation of an alcohol policy, it was reported that we received only two comments from congregants concerning the policy: one supportive of moving forward and the other favorable of moving forward with restrictions. **A motion to approve a Church alcohol policy with the restrictions as proposed was made by Lilah and seconded by Bobbi. The motion was approved on a vote of 4 in favor, no votes against and 2 abstaining.**
8. Executive Session
 - There was no Executive Session

Adjournment/Closing Prayer

At 8:48pm, **Bobbi moved to adjourn the meeting. Monika seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.** Rev. Dwayne closed the meeting with a prayer.

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