



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

March 28, 2017, 7PM

7:03pm

Moderator: Rev. Dwayne Johnson

Board Members (in attendance) : Lilah Blackstone, Jim Garner, Tim Helm, John Merriwether, Knut Panknin, Bobbi Strang

Guests: Rev. Cathy Alexander

AGENDA

Opening Prayer

1. Song and Scripture-
 - Jim Garner shared an opening scripture, reading from Matthew 6: 25-34
 - Lilah Blackstone shared an inspirational song, playing “Worth” by Anthony Brown
 - For the next meeting, Tim Helm will share a scripture and Bobbi Strang will share a song.

2. Agenda: Jim Garner moved to accept the Agenda as presented, John Merriwether seconded and the motion was accepted unanimously. The following reports were presented under the Consent Calendar: Clerk’s Report and Senior Pastor’s Report (there was no Trustees Report for this month). Knut Panknin moved and Jim Garner moved to approve the Consent items and receiving these reports. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Informational Items: (25 minutes)
 - Shout-Outs – All
 - To Frank Wirmusky, Rev. Cathy Alexander, and Dale Baskerville for Lenten devotions
 - Johanne Hardy – for Bible in 90 Days leadership
 - Workshop Organizers – Rev. Miller Hoffman, Rev. Cathy Alexander, Rev. Gorsline
 - Greg Snyder for his leadership on Church beautification and landscaping efforts
 - Eclectic Praise for their devotion and ministry and, in advance, for performance in Baltimore
 - Bill Stanclift for his devotion in providing organ music each Sunday
 - Sonja for stepping in to help music innovation
 - Rev. Cathy for finding an economical and timely Snow Removal solution
 - 460/Parking Issue Update
 - Lilah Blackstone reported there is an issue with filing the easement because it was not originally recorded timely. Also, it is not clear that we have the requisite documents to successfully record valid easement deed.
 - Recommendation to have real estate attorney look at issue and prepare proper paperwork.
 - Lilah and Jim will seek consultation with attorney(s)

- Upcoming Church Administration Working Retreat Preparation

The Retreat is scheduled for April 8, 2017 at 9:30am to 2pm with the Board, Trustees, Lay Delegates, and key ministry leaders invited to attend. The goals are:

- Identifying who is doing what/when
 - Reviewing the priorities identified by the Board
 - Ensuring focus for the rest of the year
 - Improving communications among church leaders
 - Recruiting for trustees and other key positions.
 - Ideas from Board on topics to cover:
 - How to help different ministries
 - How to support the members of the church
 - How can we get new volunteers
 - Focus on priorities of the church/board
 - Separate retreat for worship arts/music ministry
 - Buchanan Fund Policy and guidance discussion
 - Knut and Rev. Dwayne will be gathering items for agenda
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- Buchanan Fund Policy and Guidance
 - This item is kept on the agenda as a discussion placeholder. Next steps: Tim Helm, Jim Garner, and Cecelia Hayden Smith will meet and develop recommendations on the use of Buchanan Funds for the next Board meeting.
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- Issues around Immigrants, Refugees, Foreigners, and Strangers (a/k/a Neighbors)
 - Rev. Dwayne and Bobbi will meet and having a working session to further discuss issues on this topic. Rev. Dwayne recently participated with the Mayors Interfaith Council concerning this issue. He is also exploring how we can coordinate with and support the efforts of First Congregational United Church of Christ
 - Protests where ICE official are present:
 - Peaceful disobedience, MPD will not intervene
 - Must not be threat to public safety
 - Some suggestions discussed:
 - Let our congregation be the voice and lead these types of conversations
 - Let the congregation know that we support people in need
 - MCCDC may be able to serve as spiritual sanctuary, but will not be able to offer legal sanctuary
 - We can develop a framework for people that would like to act on how they can offer services and help
 - Suggestion to post more information on MCCDC website about activities
 - Grassroots interest- People have expressed interest in leading the charge for rights – these people receive information about what is going on at grassroots level and coordinate activities.

- MCC People of African Descent Conference – Rev. Cathy
 - Looking to enlist support conference in St. Louis this summer.
 - The Board needs to actively promote this conference and discussed opportunities to do so, including: Having past attendees speak about conference in future services.
 - Financial assistance – church unfortunately is unable to provide any financial support
 - Conference will be held around the time of the anniversary of the Ferguson events
 - Suggestion to incorporate Lent reflection to support conference
 - Rev. Cathy is looking for suggestion for how to get MCCDC attendance up/helping Lay Delegates get attendance up.
- Easter Services/Honors and Remembrances – Rev. Cathy
 - Rev. Cathy reported that we have received over \$700 in contributions. The remembrances will start appearing in the Sunday April 2, bulletin and will run for three weeks.

4. Discussion/Voting Items:

- Treasurer’s Report – Tim Helm
 - Financial Start of 2017
 - Tim will bring copies of treasurer’s report to the next meeting and discuss it in detail
 - He reported that through the efforts of Rev. Cathy and the bookkeeper, the church is up to date on posting all expenses for 2016 and 2017
 - Have accounting system that clearly displays funds for each account.
 - Buchanan
 - SunTrust (operating expenses)
 - Eagle Bank (Payments from rent for 462 and payment of mortgage).
 - Review of credit cards to insure that expenses are accounted for from proper accounts.

Tim also reported that congregational giving is in line with what we budgeted. People giving what they said they would. However, we are not yet realizing actual income on balance sheet from rental payments yet. We need to start making the monthly transfer of profits from the rents to the operating account. John offered to get checks from Eagle Bank to facilitate the transfer of these monthly funds.

- Motion to receive Treasurer’s report was made by Knut and seconded by Lilah. The motion was approved unanimously.
- Board Messaging on Finances
 - Jim volunteered to speak to the church during the offering on Sunday, April 2.
- 472 Update – next steps.

Tim shared an update on outstanding tenant and property management company, including: installing screens for windows (screens must be custom made); security alarm system for the units being installed/fixed; tenants received automatic lock per request.

Regarding next steps and completing the basement/3rd unit, we need to find a person to complete drawings and to obtain (pull) permits with the District of Columbia. Jim and Tim will put the issue on their Buchanan Fund agenda.

Regarding neighboring tenants at 460 Ridge Street, the church will enforce parking rules related to parking spaces.

- McCann Award Nominations – The Board voted to go into executive session to discuss nominations for the McCann Award for 2017. The Board voted by secret ballot.

5. Announcements/Events

- MCC Baltimore 45th Anniversary Celebration, Sunday, May 20, 2017, 3 PM
- MCC People of African Descent Conference, St. Louis, August 3-5, 2017

6. April Board meeting. Due to scheduling conflicts, the Board reached consensus to have its next meeting on April 25th (Lilah will be calling in; Knut will be out of the country)

7. Tim moved to adjourn the meeting and Knut seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m. Rev. Cathy provided a closing prayer.

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