



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June 20, 2017, 7PM

Moderator: Knut Panknin, acting on behalf of Rev. Dwayne Johnson, who was unable to attend due to recovery from recent surgery.

Board members (in Attendance): Lilah Blackstone (tel.), Jim Garner (tel.), Tim Helm, John Merriwether, Bobbi Strange (tel.)

Trustees (not in attendance): Joe Dailey, Scott Frazier, Cecelia Hayden-Smith, Tracy Pace, Denise Wright

Guests (in attendance): Rev. Cathy Alexander, Henry Thaggert

MEETING NOTES

Opening Prayer – Knut opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. Song and Scripture- Lilah (Jeremiah 29:11) and Knut (Song: Travis Greene – Thank you for being God)
 - Next month's song: Jim, next month's scripture- Tim
 - **Tim made and Jim seconded a motion to accept the Agenda as presented. The motion was unanimously adopted.**
2. Consent Calendar (5 minutes)
 - **Tim made a motion to receive and approve the consent agenda, which was seconded by John. The motion was approved unanimously.**
 - Clerk's Report
 - Sr. Pastor's Report (emailed by Rev. Dwayne)
 - Trustees Report - none
3. Informational Items:
 - Shout-Outs –
 - Toni Grant for being on-site for Night out at the Nats
 - Timothy Duncan for achieving his high school degree
 - Rev. Pastor for hand-written letter to Tim's friend
 - Rev. Cathy for work with church staff
 - Pride Ministry and Young Adults for helping with Pride events: *William Hawkins, Brian Wenk, Jackie Laughlin, Jules Christian, John Merriwether, Courtney La Prince*
 - Knut for his leadership in all the Pride events
 - 472 Update – Tim
 - Henry attended the meeting as a guest and is a lawyer who has experience with contract law/not real estate experience per se. He offered to help the Board in reviewing the various legal issues
 - Tim provided Henry with an update on four legal issues:
 1. 3rd apartment issue at 472 property - requires MCCDC to reconfigure unit.
 2. 472 arbitration: Original contractor on the project defaulted on contract (resulting in approx. \$80k in losses). The Board wants to take action to seek

recovery of the money lost. Kathleen Carey has historical information on that issue.

3. Developer, Mr. Horton from Blue Sky Housing LLC, has approached Tim with interest in purchasing the M Street lot, and develop housing on land, and returning parking spaces to MCCDC.

4. 460 Ridge St. Easement issue with developer that has not been filed. MCCDC did not file paperwork. (3 yrs ago.) Easement needs to be filed.

Lilah also reported that she has spoken to a real estate attorney and will be referring their information to the Board

- M Street Lot Proposal Update – Tim and Jim
 - On June 13, Tim and Jim met with attorneys with the Cozen O’Connor law firm (lawyer Meredith Moldenhauer and Eric DeBaer), who have extensive experience with development law and real estate law in the District. They know the developer and are willing to review contracts and proposal to ensure the documents appropriately protect MCCDC. Tim gave them overview of our structure so that everything is done appropriately. Tim shared with them that any
 - Sale of MCCDC lot will require a congregational vote.
 - Henry Thaggert contacted some law firms to find out whether they could assist on Pro Bono or reduced fee basis. Although no one has agreed to represent church on Pro Bono basis, he says that he has spoken to an attorney, Peter Glazer, who is willing to represent church on a contract basis. Henry shared that Peter has a good reputation. He offered additional advise, including:
 - Concerning the firm that Tim and Jim met with, Henry advised not sharing any additional financial information with the law firm before until we ask them for a conflicts check concerning the developer, Mr. Horton.
 - May be restricted from getting other offers by making agreement with developer, so we should be aware of that. May be liable if we were to make any promises to developer if we were to “shop” around other offers.
 - Issues are all separate, but it may be wise to have one law firm represent all issues. May require adjudication of issues, and we may need one representation agreement if filings are made in DC?
 - Henry recommends that Kathleen Carey forward all church documents to the board. Have an attorney interview Kathleen for her institutional knowledge.
 - Someone must take notes each time church meets with individuals on behalf of church.
 - Henry will share information about Peter Glazer (attorney) and his law firm contact information.
 - Suggest that Tim make all communications with developer through email so that we have a record of communications.
 - Jim and Tim should write down memory of meeting with law firm.

- Church alcohol policy – Rev. Cathy
 - Rev. Cathy shared that she had tasked Sonja with pursuing new opportunities to rent out MCCDC space to other organizations/businesses.
 - Because we do not allow alcohol in building, we are unable to get certain parties interested in using the space.
 - What would alcohol policy look like? Rev. Cathy has shared that other churches have policy and she presented a proposed addendum to the facility rental contract with suggested language. The issue of developing an alcohol use policy for organizations/individuals renting the property is something the Board will take up at the next meeting.
 - Jim asked whether such a policy might impact our building liability insurance. May need a permit to sell beer or wine. Tim suggested considering limiting it to only a meal or a ceremony.

4. Discussion/Voting Items: (45 minutes)

- Treasurer’s Report – Tim
 - Tim noticed a dip in the giving. May be time to message to the congregation about the need to maintain giving during the summer.
 - Summer giving and community partner outreach – Rev. Cathy
 - Push auto-tithes and giving through text. Rev. Cathy suggests summer concert. For example, members of the Gay Men’s chorus.
 - Knut recommends reminding members at beginning of service (when telling members to turn off phones, tweet during service) that they can watch live stream while traveling and set up electronic giving.
 - Ask Darrell Walker to put reminder in bulletin to give while individuals are away in the summer. Also, promote the ease of giving electronically.
 - Recommend that Board share information about the importance of giving during offerings each month.
 - Purpose of giving, reminder of giving during summer months while away, and share personal stories.
 - Lilah will make announcement for 3rd Sunday of July 16th
 - Counting Offering – the Board signed up for counting for July
 - June 25th - John and Knut
 - July 2nd – Tim and Knut
 - Messaging for Giving this Sunday the Board volunteered for sharing offering messages.
 - June 25th- Knut
 - July 2nd – Tim (11am)
 - July 9th – Bobbi (11am)
 - July 16th - Lilah
 - People of African Descent (PAD) Conference scholarship
 - The Board discussed providing a PAD scholarship fund to assist individuals attending the conference (Aug. 3rd – 5th) for bridge gap to see how it is to be dispersed based on need.
 - There will be a click button online, church bulletin, and kiosk. Will only give based on what comes in as donations for this purpose.
 - **Motion: Tim moves that BoD creates a scholarship fund for the PAD conference (August 3-5), delegating to church staff to determine how said funds will be disbursed. Bobbi seconded**

- **Knut offered a friendly amendment: Unused funds from the scholarship fund will go back into the General Fund. Seconded by John. The motion passes unanimously.**
 - Fundraising for Backpacks4Kids. Rev. Cathy shared that she is exploring options on how this year’s activities/project to support school kids will take place this year.
 - Knut will contact Mark Kornmann to ask for his plans around the program. **Motion: Tim moves to approve a Backpacks4Kids fundraiser with details to be developed by church staff. Bobbi seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**
 - Buchanan Fund/roof repair –
 - Jim brought up the issue of the flat roof, which is leaking and in need of repair
 - There are stipulated/restricted donations available towards this project (\$2,500).
 - The Trustees received a previous quote of \$5,000. Jim recommends that Board authorizes up to \$6,000 for roof, using the stipulated funds and Buchanan Fund.
 - Knut suggested that if Trustees are willing to look at proposals to fix leak, it may be good idea to get new proposals. Questioned whether summer was a good time to begin this project since giving is down and funds are tight during the summer. We have another \$1,000 that was given to us to for the tree and the donor has agreed that funds can be used for another project identified as a need by the Trustees, which could include the roof.
 - Jim has agreed to work with Trustees to solicit updated bids to bring back a proposal to Board.
 - Financial Support for Clergy Intern – Rev. Dwayne
 - See Pastor’s Report
 - **Motion by Jim: Jim moves to create a stipulated gift fund (beginning June 25th) to support ministry intern Lauren Bennett from Wesley Seminary (including support for required Intercultural Immersion trip). Seconded by Tim. The motion was unanimously adopted.**
 - Tim suggested designated holiday messaging for Lauren.
 - Knut provided background of Lauren for Board. She has been very involved with denomination and MCCDC (Ignite services).
 - Strategic Planning update – Rev. Dwayne
 - See Pastor’s Report

5. Announcements/Events

- Women’s/Female Identified Gathering, Sunday, July 9, 2017
- Sexuality & Spirituality Writing Workshop, Saturday, July 15, 2017
- Youth Pride Day, Saturday, July 15, 2017
- Men’s/Male Identified Gathering, Sunday, July 16, 2017
- Angel Collie, TRANSformation weekend, July 22-23, 2017
- People of African Descent Conference, St. Louis, August 3-5, 2017
- UFCDC/MCCDC Anniversary Service at 12 noon & Church Cookout, August 13, 2017 – at MCCDC.
- Revival @ MCCDC, September 15-17, 2017

6. Executive Session - The Board did not have an executive session during this meeting.

Adjournment/Closing Prayer (9:33pm)

- Motion to Adjourn by John and seconded by Bobbi. The Motion was unanimously adopted.
 Rev. Cathy provided a closing prayer for the group.

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