

Minutes of the General Board

Monday, April 24, 2017

6:30 p.m.

Members present: Jason Kixmiller, Melanie Kelley, Eric Eads, Dave Rohl, Bill Thomas, Jennifer Rhorer, Matt Fultz, Linda Speziale, Nancy Wilder, Bob Shaw and Cort Davisson. Guests: Jerry Henderson and Shannon Sedgwick

Jason opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. and thanked Nancy Wilder for volunteering for the opening reflection. Nancy's reflection came from Matthew 7 verse 25 (NIV) which reads:

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothes?"

Nancy said that scripture has been a large part of her life for quite a while, and this opening reflection is about faith and prayer. In 2011, a rock with the word FAITH on it was given to her family. Two weeks after receiving this rock, her husband Don had a major event that could have resulted in a life-ending surgery. It was faith that pulled them through this event. She sees the deep faith that SCC has had to have in order to make the decision to move forward and away from what has always been. The faith that it took the congregation to take these steps helps her to know that our church is going in the right direction.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the March 20th meeting were distributed via email on March 30th. Two items were noted for correction. Jerry Henderson had been left off as being present at the meeting, and Terri Rogers was incorrectly identified as creating the meal calendar for the Sedgwick family. Both items were corrected and the Minutes were redistributed to the board at the April meeting. Dave Rohl moved to accept the Minutes as amended. Cort Davisson seconded the motion. The March Minutes were approved for publication to the congregation.

Legacy fund

Anita Martin was unable to attend meeting. Item moved to May 15th meeting.

Personnel:

Plans are moving forward for Marcia McKinney to start her position as Parish Nurse at the end of May. We are continuing conversations with both Christian Theological Seminary and Kyrmen Rea-Hedrick regarding her possible internship with us for the Fall of 2017.

In March, the board reviewed a proposed amendment to give the Chair of the Personnel Committee a seat on the board. When a large portion of our budget goes to personnel, it seems appropriate that this committee have a seat at the table. This discussion is the second presentation of

the proposed amendment as required in the By-Laws. As reported and approved in the Minutes of March 20th, the decision was made to stay with a “quorum of 10” as stated in the By-Laws, even though the board will increase from 15 to 16 members with the addition of the Personnel Chair. In the final review of the proposal, language was added to allow either the chair, or their designee, to attend board meetings.

Matt moved to adopt the personnel proposal and amend the By-Laws. Eric seconded the motion. Vote was taken, and the Ayes have it.

Review of Financials:

Chris Fultz was unable to attend the meeting April meeting. Jerry Henderson and Cort Davisson reported on the following item in Chris’ absence.

Jerry brought it to the board’s attention that there is no line in the budget that provides for gift-giving when church staff experience the loss of a loved one. In the past several months, this situation came up on three occasions with the passing of Doug’s Grandmother, Barb’s Mother and Shannon’s and Shelly’s Mother. Members of the staff did step in to take care of flowers for the services. Jerry recommended that a line item be established for this purpose. He suggested that Administrative line 5059.01 might be a good option. It was the general consensus of the board to include staff bereavement funding either in 5059 or to create a separate line for these expenses. The board will leave this decision to Stewardship & Finance to work out final details. Jerry was instructed to tell Elaine that she will be receiving bills for reimbursement from the people who covered the cost of flowers ordered in the past.

On other general budget items, Elaine has asked if first quarter 2017 statements should be prepared. Jason asked what purpose the quarterly statements would serve. Do we need them? Does a statement of current giving act as an incentive for people to give if they see that they are behind in their pledges? What does the statement do for people who did not pledge?

Jerry reminded the board that there are giving units who used to be true blue for their pledges each year but did not pledge anything for 2017. The offerings received from these people are not close to their previous giving levels, but they are still attending services regularly. Only Jerry and Doug know the identity of these individuals, and they are optimistic that they will be with us in the future. Bob offered a different angle on the idea of giving. The year in which he and Susan retired required them to make adjustments in church and other charitable giving. They had to adjust to their fixed income before they could return to what they considered an acceptable giving level. Bob wondered if some of the people on the list of former pledging members are in this category. That might help us know if we can expect them to return to previous levels.

It was decided that, since pledged giving is on target, there is no need to have statements automatically generated for this quarter. Jason will have Terri put a notice in the e-newsletter that quarterly statements of giving are available at members’ requests.

Jerry reminded the board that there is a requirement for an annual audit to be conducted by an appointed audit team of 3 members. These 3 members are to be asked by the board to serve on the audit team. Last year, John Kixmiller and Brenda Rohl did the audit, but it has fallen off of the radar for this year. Dave and Melanie will get together and select names to serve as the audit team. Recommendations will be presented to the board at the May 15 meeting.

The **All for the Future** funding is on target. This campaign was designed to pay back the Verizon cell tower proceeds. People seem to know and understand this funding, and pledges are up. Jerry reported that some members who did not pledge for this year told Stewardship & Finance to continue their ACH deposits already going to the capital campaign.

DMF Update:

There have been no further funds given since the six month contribution was made earlier this year. The All for the Future funding is on target. It appears that people know and understand this fund and pledges are currently up.

HORIZON UPDATE:

On April 30th, there will be one combined service with awesome music and, hopefully, an equally awesome discussion of the results of our Mission Pathways program. This program is all about helping congregations understand their WHY. Who the church says they are, versus, who they really are, and where they are going. It's time to communicate where we are in the process and what happens next. The meeting will be in sanctuary following the one service at 10:00 a.m. We expect it to last 45 minutes or less. People will be given a written copy of the presentation at the end of the meeting. The meeting will provide the following:

- Statistics for people looking for that kind of detail
- Faith-based information for people looking for that detail
- A variety of information for everything in between

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:

Doug was absent from the meeting due to his commitments at Lexington Theological Seminary. His Senior Minister report is included in the board packet. The Leadership Development team will be meeting in May to put together the new slate of officers for our new year which begins in July.

New Business:

Bob Shaw reported on the Congolese worship service that is now taking place at Southport. Susan McNeely joined the meeting for this discussion. Last October, the church had visitors from the Congo join us for Sunday morning services. The people who came were not part of the Congo group Bob and Susan have worked with for several years. These individuals were non-French speaking refugees whose language is Swahili. As of now, this group has met four times as a community of faith

with about 20 people in worship. Two of the gatherings were for organizational purposes, and two times were a worship service.

A minister named John Batiste is heading these services. He drives 50 miles round trip from the north side of Indy to Southport for each service. John Batiste is not able to make that drive on a regular basis due to financial constraints. Bob and Susan have decided that, while they can't give John Batiste a salary, they will give him \$20 a week to help with travel costs. Bob brought this situation to the board for both informational purposes and to seek guidance on the best way to proceed. Items that need to be considered include:

- What happens with any pledges received during worship services? In the services held to date, \$272 in cash offerings has been made. Susan is holding this money now. Is there a way to run these offerings through Southport's budget? Does the board need to take action to set up a special budget line to accept money that is pledged?
- John Batiste does not have a church, but he hopes to be recognized in Indiana as a Disciples pastor. This requires him to serve a position in a Christian Church in Indiana. If John Batiste is recognized as a staff person with SCC, the formal process of being a Disciples pastor could be accomplished. Could this be a project that Southport Christian Church adopts as an outreach ministry? What is the process for taking this to Oversight or Outreach to discuss?
- At what point do we involve our landlords and the Chin leadership in this discussion? Dave reminded us that this is the Chin's building now. They should have a say in what's happening within the building and on the property. Susan stated that David with Chin Christian Church is aware of this group and is willing to sit down with the Congolese. In order to avoid liability issues, all meetings and worship services to date have been confined to SCC's usual Sunday morning service times. This avoids any issues with the Congolese using the building at other times.
- If SCC takes this group as an outreach project, both Oversight and Personnel need to be consulted to make sure the proper organizational structure is in place. John Batiste needs to be aware of any tax or other financial consequences. Shannon urged caution in structuring this new business. Decisions have to be made on what expenses are eligible to be reimbursed. What is the process for spending money and receiving reimbursement based on proper receipts?

After much discussion, it was the consensus of the group that we begin this conversation with the Chin Christian Church. If they are willing to accept it, we will step back. If the Chin decline, Oversight will be ready to discuss and move forward with making the decisions outlined above.

Bob closed this discussion by describing the manner in which these people came to Southport Christian Church. These are refugees who came through Uganda, Tanzania and other places far away. They came to Indianapolis and ended up at a church with members who are already familiar and heavily

involved in Disciples of Christ in the Congo. To top it off, Bob and Susan happen to be aware of a Swahili speaking Congolese minister. What are the odds? This is not a coincidence. This is direction.

Ministry Reports:

Elders – nothing to add to report submitted

Deacons – nothing to add to report submitted

Oversight – nothing to add to report submitted

Youth – Please lift up our youth on Youth Sunday which is May 7th. Our youth are excited to share their message.

Property:

Everything is now turned over to the Chin Christian Church. They are in the process of buying lawn mowers.

As discussed in the March meeting, the church organ was in need of repair. Sue Dykes felt it was important to have the organ up and running for Easter services. The work was completed on the organ, and the recommended repairs were made.

The next meeting will be Monday, May 15th at 6:30 p.m. Linda Speziale volunteered to do the opening reflection. Jason closed the meeting with a prayer. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie A. Kelley, Secretary to the Board