

Rocky Mountain Conference of The United Methodist Church
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 8, 2017 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Voting Members Attending: Ken Cronk, JR Casner, William McGrew, Scott Schiesswohl, Don Cadwallader, Ruth Ann Russell, Paul Smith, Michele Kaminsky, Greg Fisher (until 11:45 a.m.) and Neena Hagans. **Voting Members Absent:** None.

Non-Voting Members Attending: Paul Kottke (Cabinet Rep), Noreen Keleshian (Treasurer and Benefits Officer), Richard Marsh (Chancellor) and Mark Jackson, nominee to Board of Trustees.

President Neena Hagans called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Mark Jackson introduced himself. His name will be submitted for election to the Board of Trustees at Annual Conference in June. Scott Schiesswohl provided the devotion emphasizing an historical context for current events.

Neena Hagans asked for approval of the agenda. Michele Kaminsky asked that the Legacy Fund report be added to the agenda. William McGrew asked that status of the Corinne, Utah Church be added to the agenda.

Review and Approve February 13, 2017 Meeting Minutes. Scott Schiesswohl moved and Ken Cronk seconded a motion to approve the February 13, 2017 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Confirm Results of Email Votes re Conference Insurance and Closed Church Property.

Neena Hagans confirmed for the minutes the results of two votes taken via email after our February meeting. The vote was unanimous to approve the proposed changes to Standing Rule and Operational Procedure 4.1, Conference Insurance. The vote was also unanimous to approve the proposed changes to Standing Rule and Operational Procedure 6.3, Closed Church Property.

Property and Liability Insurance

Implementation of New Billing Arrangements-Noreen Keleshian reported that six churches have not paid their flood and earthquake premiums. Twenty churches have not paid their most recent premiums billed by Church Mutual for multi-peril insurance. Staff is following up with them and is also confirming with Church Mutual the payment deadline to avoid cancellation of the policy. Price UMC has notified us that it cannot afford its insurance premium and the District Superintendent has been notified for follow up.

The Conference sent an annual invoice in March for Directors Officers Trustees and Cyber Liability insurance, and quarterly statements will be sent as needed. Approximately \$68,000 is still outstanding in past due property and liability insurance payments from 2016.

Wind and Hail Deductible Matching-Noreen Keleshian reported that she has had one inquiry from hail damage in 2017. She will send a notice about the continued availability of this program. She confirmed that a church is only eligible for the deductible match if it has no past due property, pension or health insurance due to the Conference. She asked the Trustees whether eligibility should be tied to connectional giving at the full 13%. This initiated a discussion about how to enforce compliance with the connectional giving policy. Members suggested caution about using punitive measures and expressed preference for educational and supportive actions to encourage churches to move toward full connectional giving.

Other Risk Management Issues-Noreen Keleshian reported that some of our churches have expressed interest in becoming Sanctuary Churches. Church Mutual has provided a list of issues to address, and we will discuss with them any possible impact on Directors and Officers Insurance.

RSVP for Safety Meeting Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.-Noreen invited all Trustees to attend the Safety Meeting at the Conference office. She will email the details and request RSVPs.

Buckhorn Camp Updates-JR Casner reported that the fire suppression system requirement has delayed the completion of the adult retreat lodge to September. This is a code upgrade requirement and will cost \$43,000 which may be covered by the code upgrade insurance allowance.

Executive Session: At 11:04 a.m., Scott Schiesswohl made a motion and Don Cadwallader seconded the motion to enter into Executive Session for legal advice on the Buckhorn easement and the severance of churches from the Conference. The motion passed unanimously. During Executive Session, the Trustees approved the Easement Agreement with Jeremy Lawson regarding the Buckhorn property as distributed, and authorized the Task Force to fill in the blanks as appropriate. The Executive Session was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Property Updates

DeBeque Parsonage and Church-Noreen Keleshian confirmed that we closed on the sale of the DeBeque parsonage. A structural review of the church building suggests a need for repairing the foundation. The value of the church lots with utilities is approximately \$30,000.

James Memorial UMC Parsonage and Church. The parsonage in Hudson has sold for \$165,000 with a targeted closing date of May 15, 2017.

Mesa UMC-Grand Mesa Church will purchase the building for \$60,000 with the closing scheduled for May 10, 2017.

Warren Building-St. Patrick's Presbyterian is currently leasing part of the space. St. Francis Center has expanded its leased space to include storage for persons who are homeless, and a new lease has been executed with St. Francis.

The Land Corporation and Denver Metropolitan Ministries-Paul Smith reported that he will meet with Richard Marsh to develop details and language for a legal agreement with The Land Corporation.

First UMC, Aurora Property and Funding Request-Paul Kottke reviewed a proposal distributed to Trustees to loan Aurora First UMC \$28,000 to supplement the ½ time appointment of Rev. Yvonne Lee for the year 7/1/2017 – 6/30/2018. Aurora First is transitioning to a primarily Tongan congregation, and Yvonne has agreed to stay on to ensure a successful transition. However, the church cannot afford to compensate both the Tongan local pastor and Yvonne. The source of funds is proposed to be the Church Sale Transition fund. Aurora First is close to the medical complex at Fitzsimons, and has a parcel of land that could be sold to provide the basis for the loan repayment if necessary. The loan would be collateralized by a lien on the church, the parsonage and other property owned by Aurora First.

Ken Cronk made a motion to approve an interest free loan of \$28,000 to Aurora First UMC from the Church Sale Transition fund. The loan will be collateralized by a lien on the church, the parsonage and other property owned by Aurora First UMC. Scott Schiesswohl seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Corinne Methodist Episcopal Church-William McGrew reported that he was approached by a couple in Corinne, Utah and notified that the City of Corinne wants to purchase the church property. Richard Marsh and Noreen Keleshian both have files on this property. Ken Cronk made a motion and Don Cadwallader seconded the motion to approve the Resolution Regarding Conference Property for the property owned by the Corinne Methodist Episcopal Church, which passed unanimously. The full wording of the Resolution is attached to these minutes.

Treasurer's Report-Noreen Keleshian distributed Fund 40 and Trustee Fund Balance reports as of March 31, 2017. Matters included on the Property Insurance Fund report have changed due to the modification in billing procedures to the churches for property insurance. In 2017 Fund 40 primarily includes income and expenses pertaining to Directors Officers Trustees and Cyber Liability insurance billed by the Conference, and expenses to match wind and hail deductibles.

Two gifts of \$3000 each were awarded in April from the Northern Colorado Wesley Fund. These were given to the Wesley Foundations at CU and CSU, per the instructions from the donor.

The Trustees continue to be concerned about doing business with Wells Fargo due to allegations of illegal and unethical business practices. Noreen is working with CF&A to follow up on this concern.

Chancellor's Report-Richard Marsh provided a summary of the Judicial Council hearing related to the election and consecration of Bishop Oliveto. He also reported on the Judicial Council decision that Boards of Ordained Ministry are required to inquire further of persons to ascertain same sex orientation.

Other Business

Legacy Fund Committee Report –Michelle Kaminsky reported on the April 19, 2017 meeting of the Legacy Fund Standing Committee and reviewed the distributed report. Don Cadwallader moved and JR Casner seconded a motion to approve the recommendations of the Legacy Fund Committee. The motion passed unanimously. The report included approved grant awards to Loveland First for \$30,000; Cheyenne First for \$18,000; Littleton for \$30,000 and Denver Scott for \$11,000 and disapproval of grant requests from CU Boulder Wesley Foundation, Highlands Ranch St. Andrew, and Boulder First.

Meeting Day of the Week-Noreen asked if Monday is the best meeting day. Several members said they prefer Mondays.

Membership of Trustees-Noreen Keleshian will contact Nominations Committee about our need for four more members.

Annual Conference-Neena Hagans cannot attend. We should request time to make a report on church transitions, discontinued churches and disposition of funds. We should also report on the wind and hail policies and insurance coverage decisions. Neena will draft a report.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Next Meeting Dates are August 14, 2017 and November 13, 2017. Ruth Ann Russell will not be able to attend on August 14.

Minutes submitted by Ruth Ann Russell, Secretary, on May 9, 2017.