**Upper New York Annual Conference**

**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**

 **March 7, 2017**

Voting Members Present: Rev. Richard Barling, Mr. Peter Abdella, Ms. Pam Deckard, Mr. Howard Simonin, Mr. John Frary, Ms. Kathy King-Griswold, Rev. Cheryl Brown, Ms. Joyce Miller, Mr. Hal Schmidt, Rev. Jack Keating.

Excused: Mr. Peter Abdella

Ex-officio Present: Mr. Kevin Domanico, Rev. Everett Bassett, Mr. Scott Delconte.

This meeting was held via telephone conference call and the Secretary determined that a quorum was present.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Peter Abdella, at 4:15pm. President Richard Barling joined the call at 4:25pm.

A motion was made by Hal Schmidt and seconded by John Frary to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2017 meeting as they were presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**PROPERTY UPDATES**- Pam Deckard guided us through the “Status of properties” for updates that have occurred since our February 7th meeting:

1. Former Showers UMC – we are awaiting a commitment from the tenant regarding interest in purchasing this property.
2. Elba (Land Only) – A potential buyer has come forward and the sale price will cover the conference’s costs to transfer the property. Our Chancellor Scott Delconte informed us that, due to court considerations, we cannot just give property away, even if it has little or no sale value.

**RESOLUTIONS-** The Secretary had previously circulated two resolutions regarding property issues (attached). Following a discussion and time for questions, Hal Schmidt moved and Pam Deckard seconded that both of these resolutions be approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**INSURANCE SUBCOMMITTEE-** Peter Abdella updated the Board on Church Mutual’s Sensor program that is being made available. Peter explained that Church Mutual has proposed an incentive program to be this program “jump started” among our conference churches. The incentive program does not appear to be one that will produce, in the opinion of the subcommittee, the results we are seeking. The subcommittee will continue working with Church Mutual as we need to get clarification of eligibility requirements in order to proceed further with offering this program conference-wide. The subcommittee is also working with Church Mutual to design a series of Loss Prevention workshops to be offered throughout the annual conference. A further update will be available at our next meeting.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE –** An extended discussion was held about our financial accounting systems and the BOD requirement to provide, for the Annual Conference, a reporting of all of our financial systems. While much work has been done on auditing of the conference’s books for many of the years since our new annual conference was born, we do not yet have an easily understandable reporting system that we can publish for the annual conference. This is a frustration for many in leadership roles both on the Trustees and other conference teams. A subcommittee of Cheryl Brown, Pam Deckard and Kathy King-Griswold will work with our Conference Treasurer to attempt to design a workable and publish-able financial reporting system.

**CONFERENCE CENTER UPDATE –** President Rich Barling reported that we are moving toward completing the building as “punch list” items are now being finished. The move-in is scheduled for 3/20/17 with the new conference center being open for business on 3/22/17. Rich reported that opening events will be publicized soon.

OLD BUSINESS--

1. **CAMP FINDLEY DISCUSSION** – Rich Barling and Scott Delconte informed the group that a memorandum of Intention has been prepared and sent to representatives of the Findley Lake UMC. We now await their response to determine if a Stewardship Agreement is possible. We also will be prepared to report and suggest action to the Annual Conference session in June.

1. **LEGAL UPDATE** – Scott Delconte and Rich Barling reported that not much progress has been made as we attempt to complete work with the DEC on one of the former UMC properties. The DEC has not yet released the property, pending additional inspections. We continue to await moving forward on a proposed sale to the local fire department.
2. **STECHER FUND UPDATE** – Kathy King-Griswold reported on the progress of working with one of the beneficiary UMC’s on their receiving of funds. Another former beneficiary has been contacted by Scott Delconte to try to set up a meeting to try to work toward resolution of this situation.
3. **OUTSTANDING LOAN –** Peter Abdella reported that a packet of materials has been received from a church which already has a loan in place and Peter is hoping to have a meeting with the church in April. He will report further on this situation after that meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS –**

1. Rich Barling asked about the dispersing of musical instruments and other content items at closed church buildings. We decided by consensus that the 2 assigned Trustees for each of these locations are empowered to disperse personal property at closed church locations.
2. John Frary reported that he will be meeting in the near future with the newly appointed Northern Flow District Superintendent, Rev. Mike Weeden. John believes that some property improvements will be needed prior to the new DS moving into the District parsonage.

 **OTHER BUSINESS** – There was no other pressing business needing to be conducted at this time.

 Our next meeting is scheduled to be via conference call on Thursday, March 16h at 7:00pm. It is possible, however, that we may be able to cancel that meeting and meet again via conference call on Tuesday, April 4th at 4:00pm. A decision about the 3/16 meeting will be made and communicated to all members via e-mail from the Secretary.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Keating

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Secretary