**Upper New York Annual Conference**

**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**

 **April 4, 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, Mr. Nathan Trost, Rev. Jack Keating.

Ex-officio Present: Mr. Kevin Domanico, Rev. Bill Mudge, 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 President Richard Barling at 4:05pm. An opening prayer was offered by Jack Keating.

A motion was made by Kathy King-Griswold and seconded by Hal Schmidt to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2017 meeting as they were presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**OLD BUISINESS**

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

1. Former Lassellville UMC – This property, located in the Mohawk District, is now closed and in the hands of the Trustees. The property includes a church building and parsonage attached by a covered walkway. UMC signage needs to be removed. We understand the buildings have already been winterized. The 2 Trustees appointed for this property are Howard Simonin and Richard Barling.
2. Former Rensselear: First Emmanuel UMC – We are now responsible for the former church building, which we understand is in bad condition. The complete paperwork packet from the Cabinet has not yet been received by the Trustees. We believe a New Faith Community group might have been using the property. We will reach out the Albany District D.S. in hopes of getting more information.
3. Berkshire cemetery – We discovered that there is a cemetery property associated with the former Berkshire UMC which we will add to our list of properties.
4. Former James Street UMC Parsonage – this property has been sold and CLOSED.
5. Elba – vacant land – A motion was made by Peter Abdella and seconded by Pam Deckard to approve the resolution (attached) allowing for the sale of this vacant land.

**LOAN COMMITTEE WORK-** Kathy King-Griswold and Kevin Domanico led us in a discussion about the work of the Loan Subcommittee.

1. An EMERGENCY LOAN request was received from the Cabinet for a Cornerstone District UMC. A mold situation in the parsonage presents an immediate, emergency situation. The pastor and family need to be relocated while mold abatement work can be completed. After a discussion about the urgency of the situation, a motion was made by the Loan Subcommittee and seconded by Hal Schmidt to approve the resolution (attached) after verification by the Loan Subcommittee. The motion carried unanimously.
2. Grace Albany UMC – A request for a loan, received prior to the Loan program being suspended, was withdrawn by the church.
3. Mohawk District UMC - This church currently has a mortgage with a local bank, on which the Annual Conference is a guarantor. We have not been able to get updates on the loan status from the church, however. At the request of the Trustees, Conference Treasurer Kevin Domanico has written a letter to the church requesting the needed information by April 15, 2017. We also received information that indicated that the church is considering additional property improvements which would necessitate an increase in the mortgage amount. A motion was made by John Frary and seconded by Howard Simonin to authorize the Secretary to communicate to both the pastor and the DS that the Trustees are not interested in providing any increase to our guarantee for the church’s mortgage. The motion carried unanimously and the letter was sent. (attached)
4. Crossroads District UMC – This church also has a mortgage with a conference guarantor clause and we have not been able to secure the needed information. The Conference Treasurer also has written a letter to this church requesting the information by April 15, 2017.

**FORMER PARISHVILLE UMC-** A motion was made by Pam Deckard and seconded by Cheryl Brown to approve the resolution pertaining to this former church. (Attached) The motion carried unanimously.

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORTS –** Kathy King-Griswold has prepared the needed financial reports and the reports will be provided to all conference members prior to our corporate session. These reports include a financial statement and an update of our work on closed and abandoned properties.

**CAMP FINDLEY UPDATE –** Scott Delconte update the Board on the status of communications between the Annual Conference and the group representing Findley Lake UMC. An attempt to create a Stewardship Agreement is on-going between the Annual Conference Board of Trustees and this group. Bill Gottshcalk-Fielding will be reconvening our negotiating team next week.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**INSURANCE SUBCOMMITTEE-** Peter Abdella updated the Board on Church Mutual’s suggestions for Risk Management meetings throughout the Annual Conference. Our consensus was to move ahead and we will do so by working through the Cabinet to secure dates in each district. The details on the water sensor program were also shared and will move ahead with increased communications by both Church Mutual and our Board.

**SUCCESSION PLANNING –** We discussed the Board’s needs for members of the Trustees for next year and beyond. We will need information about current terms and term limits. A Trustee Leadership Team consisting of Secretary Jack Keating, Hal Schmidt and President Rich Barling will work with Bill Gottschalk-Fielding as a resource person.

**BINGHAMTON DISTRICT PARSONAGE –** Nathan Trost reported that there is some paving repair work that is needed at the Binghamton District parsonage. Nathan will research the quote received and forward to the entire Board of our consideration.

**DISTRICT OFFICE BOILER PROBLEM –** Nathan reported that there appears to be a boiler problem at the local church that houses the Binghamton District office. A grant request has been received and Nathan will research the needed work and report back to the Board.

 **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, April 20th at 7:00pm. It is possible; however, that we may be able to cancel that meeting as we will have an in-person meeting on Saturday, April 29th at 10:00am at the new conference center. A decision about canceling the 4/20 conference call will be made and communicated to all members by the Secretary.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40pm following a prayer offered by Rev. Bill Mudge.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Keating

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Secretary