**Upper New York Annual Conference**

**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**

**Conference Call Meeting**

**September 22, 2016**

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

Excused: Mr. Nathan Trost, Rev. Barbara Brewer, Mr. Peter Abdella.

Ex-officio Present: Mr. Kevin Domanico, Rev. Bill Gottschalk-Fielding, Rev. Everett Bassett.

After a roll call, it was determined that a quorum was present.

The meeting was called to order by President Rich Barling, who offered an opening word of prayer at 7:00pm.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**- Hal Schmidt moved that the minutes of 8/2/16, 8/18/16 and 9/6/16 be approved as presented. John Frary seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**UMC LOAN UPDATE**- Kathy King-Griswold reported that she and Peter Abdella have been working with this church. All required forms have been received, the church’s financial reports have been reviewed and a signed agreement, developed in conjunction with our Conference Chancellor, has been completed. This loan is for $35,000 with a 2% interest rate and a 10 year repayment plan. Payments of $968 are scheduled to be made to the Annual Conference on a quarterly basis.

**LOAN COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT** – Rich Barling asked for interested parties to serve on our Conference Trustees Loan Committee. Kathy King-Griswold, Cheryl Brown, Kevin Domanico, and Pat Toukatly will serve in this role and Rich was going to contact one additional Trustee member about joining this team.

**ADDITIONAL UMC LOAN SITUATION** – Since there is an on-going loan situation with one of our churches, Rich Barling will contact Deb Byers (former Trustee) to get an update as to the current situation. This loan will then be referred to the new Trustees Loan Committee.

**DISTRICT PARSONAGE UPDATES** –

 Mohawk District – Jack Keating reported that we are approximately 30 days (or less) away from the closing on the new Mohawk District parsonage. Representatives of the Mohawk District Committee on Superintendency have been asked and agreed to take over finish items on the “punch-list” to prepare the home for occupancy by the District Superintendent.

 Oneonta District – Rich reported that a home has been purchased and closing is planned within the next month. Contractors are working daily at the home to complete “punch-list” items so the new parsonage is ready for occupancy by the District Superintendent.

 Since each District parsonage needs two Trustee reps assigned to it, the following Districts need additional Trustees:

* Northern Flow – John Frary and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Binghamton - Howard Simonin and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Mountainview - Peter Abdella and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Episcopal residence – Rich Barling and Pam Deckard

**CAMP FINDLEY UPDATE** – John Jackson and Peter Abdella had a second meeting with representatives of the Findley Lake UMC regarding the Camp Findley property. After discussion, we realize that additional steps needed in this process include meetings with CCRM, Cabinet, and the Board of Trustees. Bill Gottschalk-Fielding agreed to outline these proposed steps in an e-mail to both John and Peter.

**INSURANCE SUBCOMMITTEE – J**ack Keating reported that discussions are taking place between Walsh Insurance and Church Mutual Insurance. The completion dates for these discussions is to be October 1st. More information will be available after that date.

**LEGAL UPDATE** – Rich gave a brief update on the current situation at a former church location. The DEC is involved, as has been the Conference Chancellor. The DEC has an open case investigation and further updates will be made as information is received.

**CLOSED CHURCHES** – Pam Deckard reported that the former Fowlerville UMC property has been SOLD and CLOSED! The former Cameron Mills property is moving toward closing as is the former Granby Center UMC property, which has a closing scheduled for 9/29!

**PROPOSED BUDGET** – Kathy King-Griswold reported that a proposed budget for 2017 has been prepared and will be sent out electronically to all Trustees members. We will discuss this proposed budget and the review of investment accounts provided by the Conference Treasurer and Trustees Treasurer at our 10/15/16 in-person meeting in Syracuse.

**UNITED METHODIST HOMES** – In response to a request from one of the United Methodist Homes, Rich will contact Deb Byers and Bill Mudge to see about earlier discussions and requests and whether this needs to appear on an agenda for a future meeting.

**NEW TRUSTEE ORIENTATION** – Following discussion, Rich agreed to work with Bill Gottschalk-Fielding and Kevin Domanico to plan some orientation and team-building activities for our upcoming 10/15/16 meeting.

**AED DISCUSSION** – Previously the Trustees had preliminary discussions about offering AED information to local churches. While we do not feel prepared to offer a definitive statement or policy for the conference we can, at least, investigate an option to purchase this equipment in bulk quantities for our churches to consider. Rich agreed to use some of his fire department contacts to attempt to locate a company we might talk with.

**FUTURE MEETINGS FOR CALENDARS** – The Board of trustees are scheduled to meet via electronic means on Tuesday, October 4th at 4:00pm. We also have an in-person meeting scheduled for Saturday, October 15th from 10:00am until 3:00pm at the Conference Center. Members are asked to make sure these dates and times are on our calendars and are thanked for their responses to insure that we have a quorum present for all meetings to allow us to transact business.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm., following a prayer offered by Bill Gottschalk-Fielding.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Keating

Jack Keating, Secretary