**Upper New York Annual Conference**

**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**

 **October 28, 2017**

Voting Members Present: Rev. Richard Barling, Ms. Pam Deckard, Mr. Hal Schmidt, Ms. Joyce Miller, Mr. Nathan Trost, Mr. Robert Dietrich, Mr. Peter Abdella, Mr. John Frary, Rev. Barbara Brewer, Rev. Cheryl Brown, Rev. Jack Keating.

Ex-officio Present: Mr. Kevin Domanico, Rev. Bill Gottschalk-Fielding, Mr. Mike Huber, Scott Delconte.

Guest: Stuart Williams, CCRM

This meeting was held at the Conference Center in Liverpool.

The meeting was called to order by the President Richard Barling at 10:05am. An opening prayer was offered by Richard Barling.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Barbara Brewer moved and Hal Schmidt seconded a motion to accept the 10/3/17 minutes as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.

**SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PROPERTY**  Pam Deckard guided us through the property updates on Schedule A that have occurred since our last meeting:

1. A question arose about who has the authority to set selling prices on closed churches. The Chancellor confirmed that this comes under the authority of the 2 assigned trustees for each property.
2. Former Syracuse: James Street UMC – we decided to lower the asking price to $275,000 due to lack of activity.
3. We had a presentation from CCRM relative to properties they are managing--- Peter Abdella reviewed the relationship between the Trustees and CCRM. He also explained the responsibilities of each group as it pertains to both property and ministry. Mike Huber and Stuart Williams gave a brief presentation on the extensive CCRM Master Plan. We reviewed facility needs at each of our camp locations. Following a discussion and the chance to share ministry concerns by both groups, the following actions were taken:
4. Hal Schmidt moved and Pam Deckard seconded a motion to authorize Peter Abdella and Cheryl Brown to complete the sale of three waterfront lots at Camp Asbury. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Hal Schmidt moved and Joyce Brown seconded a motion that directs that the proceeds from the sale of the three waterfront lots at Camp Asbury be designated for use by CCRM for designated capital improvements. The motion carried unanimously.
6. Jack Keating moved and Joyce Miller seconded a motion that Hal Schmidt and Pam Deckard be authorized to complete the sale of the property formerly known as Camp Findley Camp and Retreat Center. The motion carried unanimously.
7. Jack Keating moved and Joyce Miller seconded a motion that the proceeds from the sale of the property formerly known as Camp Findley Camp and Retreat Center be designated for the use of CCRM. The motion was approved unanimously.
8. Windfarm Update- Peter, Mike and Stuart reported that the first listening session, held in the Oneonta District was attended by 12 people. This session produced good feedback and an exchange of ideas. A second session is scheduled in the Binghamton District on 11/8/17. The Board was told that the preliminary vision is to locate 4 turbines near or on our Sky Lake property. Discussions will continue and the Board will be updated as more information becomes available.
9. District Parsonages – Oneonta – The two assigned Trustees are authorized to have the needed repairs to the water purification system made as soon as possible.

Mohawk District – When purchased last year, this parsonage had some items that needed attention. These included a sky light repair, some kitchen cabinetry work, and repair of some minor water damage and painting. The total estimate is $3,125 and the two assigned Trustees have authorized the work.

Crossroads District – The approved roof replacement project is underway and will be completed prior to the winter weather.

Adirondack – A discussion is underway between the two assigned Trustees and the District Superintendent as we begin to search for a District parsonage in this district.

**INSURANCE** Peter Abdella reported on the following:

1. Past Due Accounts – The current list totals $50,878 in past due premiums to Church Mutual. These balances are reported to the subcommittee by Pat Toukatly and are lower than at this point in 2016. The Cabinet has been very supportive of the efforts to help our churches become current in their billing obligations.
2. Water Sensor program – Communications have taken place to all churches and we hope that the program will soon be expanded to ALL of our churches.
3. Risk Management Videos – 5 different videos are available and are being rolled out to our churches on a schedule. Another question has been raised about the Trustees supporting AED usage throughout the conference. The subcommittee will discuss this at our next meeting.

**BISHOP’S VISIT**

We welcomed Bishop Webb and had a conversation with the Bishop about steps needed during a local church’s closing process. As we seek to standardize this work, we discussed including an appraisal or assessment of selling value as a part of the closing events. We also discussed that current closing statements do not include any language about the disposition of building assets. We also acknowledge the possible future need for developing dis-affiliation procedures. The Bishop and Chancellor will be meeting to do further work on these topics and then any possible policy needs will be brought back to the Board of Trustees.

**FINANCE** Although Trustees Treasurer Kathy King-Griswold could not be present for this meeting, we did take the following action at her request:

1. A motion was made by Jack Keating and seconded by Cheryl Brown to accept the Treasurer’s suggestion and move the current Stecher Fund investment, within Wespath Investments to a 45% equities and 55% fixed income fund, and authorize the Conference Treasurer to move these funds prior to 11/1/17. The motion was approved unanimously.
2. Kevin Domanico requested a copy of the current New Beginnings Fund policy from the Secretary.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. A former UMC update – The Chancellor reported that a settlement has been approved and the conference will soon be receiving a check for $48,000 - $49,000 and that the Annual Conference retains a 50% share of any proceeds gained as the result of a sale of the former United Methodist building. A motion was made by Nathan Trost and seconded by John Frary to treat these proceeds the same as funds secured from the sale of closed churches. The motion was approved unanimously.
2. A UMC Loan Situation – Peter Abdella reported that a conference call meeting is scheduled with representatives of the church on 11/8/17. We will receive more information following this call.
3. Church Mortgage Situation – Richard Barling and Peter Abdella will reach out to this church regarding our Guarantee of their current mortgage.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Policies – This discussion was tabled until Richard Barling has a chance to do additional research into our needs.

 Our next meeting is scheduled to be held via conference call on Tuesday, 11/7/17 at 4:00pm. Possible items on the agenda for that meeting include approving a schedule of 2018 meeting dates and discussion camp visits by some or all of our Trustees.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10pm following a prayer offered Barb Brewer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Keating

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Secretary