**Upper New York Annual Conference**

**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**

**October 18, 2018**

Voting Members Present: Rev. Richard Barling, Ms. Kathy King-Griswold, Mr. Hal Schmidt, Ms. Joyce Miller, Mr. Robert Dietrich, Mr. John Frary, Mr. Nathan Trost, Ms. Pam Deckard, Rev. Jack Keating.

Ex-officio Present: Mr. Scott Delconte, Rev. W. Gottschalk-Fielding, Mr. Robert Flask

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

The meeting was called to order by President Richard Barling at 7:00pm.

An opening prayer was offered by Rich Barling.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Hal Schmidt moved and John Frary seconded a motion to accept the 9/22/18 minutes as presented by the Secretary. The motion carried unanimously.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PROPERTY** Pam Deckard led us through a review of Schedule A, dated 10/15/18 (attached). The following are updates to that Schedule A:

1. Former Hicks UMC – filed for court approval to allow us to move toward closing.
2. Former Rensselear UMC – Scott is attempting to work with the prospective buyer’s attorney.
3. Former Mineral Springs UMC – Showings on this property continue. A prospective buyer is currently out of town. We may need to consider a change of realtors in the near future.
4. Former Oneonta District UMC – A communication as received today by the Chancellor but communication problems continue with the prospective congregation.
5. Former Starkey UMC – This property will need to go back on the real estate market. Cemetery issues will continue to present a problem in selling this property.
6. Former Watervilet UMC – this property is not yet on the market.
7. Former Utica Asbury UMC – The closing Charge Conference was held on 9/30/18. We do not yet have a closing resolution from the Cabinet to act on. We understand that the building and assets will be transferred to the New Hartford UMC.
8. Former Newcomb UMC – Hal Schmidt is working with a local realtor to establish a listing price for this property. John Frary is the second assigned Trustee.
9. Former Watertown/Bethany UMC – John Frary is working with the DS on the closure of this church building. Hal Schmidt is the second assigned Trustee.
10. Former Peasleeville UMC – Bob Dietrich and Hal Schmidt are the assigned Trustees.
11. Former Calvary/Vestal UMC parsonage – Nathan Trost reports that a listing price of $136,900 has been established and he is ready to sign a listing contract with the realtor.
12. Former Binghamton/High Street UMC – Nathan Trost reports that the parsonage is a mess and needs cleaning. The chemical remediation process has been completed in the church building. The $28,000 insurance claim was covered by Church Mutual, although communication was difficult. The church has roof leaks that have been leaking into the walls for some time. The parsonage is currently listed for $99,000 and the church is currently listed for $689,000. Nathan received our approval to lower these prices as he deems appropriate.

**INSURANCE** The Secretary reported the following for this subcommittee:

1. A motion was made by the Insurance Subcommittee chair Peter Abdella and seconded by Hal Schmidt that the Trustees Board approve the recommendation of the subcommittee to move forward to renew our insurance coverage based on the proposal received from Church Mutual Insurance Company on 10/1/18, as this proposal represented the most competitive pricing for the Annual Conference and local churches. After discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

**FINANCE** Treasurer Kathy King-Griswold reports:

1. She will have an upcoming meeting with CFA tomorrow. The committees will meet together occasionally to accomplish their missions.
2. Beth Dupont, our Conference Finance Manager, and Kathy have worked together to provide timely reports for the Trustees. The Board is appreciative of their efforts and the timely reporting.
3. A designated Fund update – This fund has a balance of over $1,100,000 and the Chancellor is attempting to reach an agreement with the beneficiaries of the fund to release any future claims against the Annual Conference.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Our letter was received by the Bishop requesting a discussion around church closing policies. Rev. Bill Gottschalk-Fielding will be working to get representatives of the involved teams together for a meeting, possible in November.
2. A Crossroads District Church – A letter detailing the Annual Conference’s position was sent by the Chancellor to the church’s attorney. We now await a return communication on behalf of the church.
3. A former Cornerstone District UMC – No update is available. We had a long discussion about possible options for the future.
4. Back-up Generator – The generator has been delivered and is in the process of installation at the Conference Center. Rich hopes to have the contractor complete the installation by 11/1/18.
5. Albany District parsonage – Rich has not yet received any communications from the Bishop’s office on this project.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Mohawk District Parsonage – The Board was updated on gutter and downspout work that was approved by Bob Dietrich and Jack Keating this week.
2. A Crossroads District UMC - The Board discussed the loan situation at this church. Rich will be in contact with the DS to get any pertinent information for us to consider possible future action.
3. District Parsonage inspections – The Secretary was asked to send a letter to Bill Gottschalk-Fielding requesting that this policy be looked into for possible revisions.
4. Pam Deckard reminded us that our closed church locations need winterization and what those needs are.

Our next meeting will be held via conference call and Kathy King-Griswold will be setting up a Doodle poll to find the best possible date due to Election Day.

A motion was made by John Frary and seconded by Pam Deckard to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm, following a prayer offered by Jack Keating .

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Keating

Jack Keating, Secretary