**Upper New York Annual Conference**

**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**

 **December 5, 2017**

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

Ex-officio Present: Mr. Kevin Domanico, Mr. Scott Delconte, Mr. Mike Huber.

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 4:05pm. An opening prayer was offered by Rich Barling.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Hal Schmidt moved and Pam Deckard seconded a motion to accept the 10/28/17 minutes as presented by the Secretary. The motion carried unanimously.

**SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PROPERTY**  Pam Deckard guided us through property updates that have occurred since our last meeting and as shown on Schedule A (attached). In addition Pam acknowledged that we have just today received the closing paperwork on the former Lockwood UMC. The two assigned Trustees on this property will be President Rich Barling and one additional Trustee. Rich was going to reach out to Nathan Trost to request his assistance as the second Trustee on this property.

**INSURANCE**

1. Upcoming Renewal - Peter Abdella reported that two significant fire losses in 2017 have adversely effected our renewal premium proposal from our current carrier, Church Mutual Insurance Company. Peter reviewed the on-going negotiation process that has taken place. The initial quotation included an increase of premium of more than 11% for our local churches. This was unacceptable to the subcommittee and negotiations are continuing. More information will be made available as it is received.
2. Past Due balances – As of 11/1/17 approximately $40,000 is owed as past due premiums by our local churches. The Trustees will have to bear this cost if the premiums are not paid by the churches by 1/1/18. The subcommittee has reached out to the Cabinet to see if they think phone calls to these churches might be beneficial.
3. New Faith Communities – Peter reported that the subcommittee has been presented with a list of the annual conference’s New Faith Communities relative to their needs for insurance coverages. Our insurance consultant, Sean Keenan of the Walsh Duffield Insurance, has been asked to develop a list of criteria for determining the need for individual coverage for each group.

**FINANCE** Trustees Treasurer Kathy King-Griswold provided the following updates:

1. The 2019 Trustees budget needs to be prepared and currently the proposed budget looks like it has been reduced from $63,500 in 2018 to $12,500 in 2019. Part of this discrepancy comes from the funding formula we developed relative to closed churches. Kathy will work with Conference Treasurer Kevin Domanico to get further information on this budget request.
2. Investment Funds Allocation – the group is waiting for legal feedback from Bond, Schoenck and King in order to allow this project to move forward. Kevin hopes to get more information this week.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Camp Findley sale update – After a discussion on the proceeds of the sale of this property, Peter Abdella moved and Barb Brewer seconded a motion that the sale proceeds of the former Camp Findley will be distributed consistent with the 2016 resolution approved at the 2016 Annual Conference. This means the motion made at our 10/28/17 meeting would be withdrawn. This motion carried unanimously.
2. UMC Grant request – After discussion by our Executive Team, and conversation with the District Superintendent, we instructed the Trustees Secretary to communicate to the church that funding is not available at this time.
3. Wind Farm update – Mike Huber reported that two very good listening sessions were held. We are now at the point where action on the part of the Board of Trustees is needed to move further. Chancellor Scott Delconte added to this update that the Cabinet must also be involved. Jack Keating moved and Cheryl Brown seconded a motion that the Trustees empower our two assigned Trustees, Chancellor and CCRM Board to move forward to sign the lease. The motion carried unanimously.
4. Outstanding UMC loan situation – Peter Abdella reported on the telephone conference call that took place on 11/8, relative to this loan situation. Our team of Trustees will be meeting next week to review the proposal received from the church.
5. Finger Lakes parsonage – Pam Deckard reported that the two fireplaces will be repaired for much less than originally estimated and under our current financial policies. The District Superintendent is working with contractors to try to get the work started in the next week.\*\*
6. Oneonta District parsonage – Joyce Miler reported that the new water filtration system is installed and appears to be working as promised. Further updates will be offered if and when they are needed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Drop Box usage – The Secretary has reported that the Trustees Dropbox has been filled and no further information can be placed into the Dropbox. This means that minutes cannot be updated and no other notices can be placed into the Dropbox. Kevin Domanico requested the Trustees Secretary work together with the Conference Staff in an attempt to clear up space in the Dropbox as an interim solution until Cloud Storage becomes available.

 Our next meeting is scheduled to be held via conference call on January 2, 2018 at 4:00pm. We also have an “in person” meeting scheduled on January 27, 2018 at the Conference Center from 10:00am – 3:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Keating

Jack Keating

Secretary

\*\*Addendum to these minutes -

 “Following this meeting it was discovered that the information reported on the fireplace repairs needed at the Finger Lakes parsonage was incorrect. An e-mail poll was held and the Trustees unanimously voted to approved the expenditure of $7,839.80, per the estimate received from Martin’s Stove and Fireplace of Geneva, NY to repair both the upstairs and downstairs fireplaces at this home.