**Upper New York Annual Conference**

**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**

 **February 7, 2017**

Voting Members Present: Rev. Richard Barling, Ms. Pam Deckard, Mr. Howard Simonin, Mr. John Frary, Ms. Kathy King-Griswold, Rev. Cheryl Brown, Mr. Nathan Trost, Rev. Barbara Brewer, Ms. Joyce Miller, Mr. Hal Schmidt, Rev. Jack Keating.

Excused: Mr. Peter Abdella

Ex-officio Present: Mr. Kevin Domanico, 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 Rich Barling, at 4:05pm. Rich offered prayer to center our thoughts for the work ahead.

A motion was made by Joyce Miller and seconded by Kathy King-Griswold to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2017 meeting as they were presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**PROPERTY UPDATES**- Pam Deckard guided us through the “Status of properties” for updates that have occurred since our Jan. 21st meeting:

1. Former Andover UMC – the property is moving toward closing and should be closed within the next few weeks.
2. Mineral Springs – The potential buyer is no longer in the picture so the property remains on the market.
3. Former Berkshire UMC – Nathan Trost reported that we have received a cash offer which Nathan accepted on behalf of the Conference Board of Trustees. Scott Delconte will be working with the buyer’s attorney to move this property toward closing.
4. Buckton – Due to a lack of interest the price on this property will be lowered to $15,000.
5. Morristown – Pam reports that in addition to the former church building in this community there are also 2 building lots in the community that need to be sold.
6. Former James Street UMC parsonage – We received and accepted a cash offer for $100,500. Scott Delconte will be working with the buyer’s attorney to bring this property to closing.
7. Talcottville – Pam reports that this property remains on the market at $41,900.
8. Elba (Land Only) – Pam reports that letters have been sent to the 3 neighbors of this property to see if they may be interested in purchasing at a greatly reduced price.

We decided, by consensus, that we would NOT be advertising closed church properties on the conference web site as we were considering at a previous meeting. We also had a discussion around the proper protocol to follow upon church closings, particularly with regard to personal property located in these buildings. We were reminded that the assigned DS should be involved in these discussions at an early stage.

**CAMP FINDLEY DISCUSSION** – Rich informed the group that the team who will reach out to the representatives of the Findley Lake UMC has been populated. Members of this team are Barb Brewer, Peter Abdella, Kevin Domanico, Bill Gottschalk-Fielding, Scott Delconte, and a representative from CCRM. To empower the group’s discussions, Rich asked if there were any “non-negotiables” from our members. Three items were lifted up as follows:

1. That there be NO transfer of ownership on this property.
2. That the property continues to be insured through our Annual Conference insurance program.
3. That there continues to be CCRM involvement in the use of this property.

Bill Gottschalk-Fielding will convene the groups to begin the discussions around a Stewardship Agreement, as recommended by CCRM. Further reports will be made as the process moves forward.

**LEGAL UPDATE** – Scott Delconte and Rich Barling reported that the conference continues to work with DEC officials, and the local Fire Department on a closed property.

**STECHER FUND UPDATE** – Kathy King-Griswold reported that communications have been sent out to the parties involved in the designation of this fund and we await responses back from these parties.

**DISTRICT PARSONAGE POLICY** – Rich Barling will be circulating the existing policy, approved on 6-16-2014 for study and possible updating if needed.

**CONFERENCE CENTER UPDATE** – Barb Brewer reported painting, carpeting and ceiling work is now underway at the new Conference Center building. Our move-in date is March 20th. Barb reports plans for planting interior plantings are now underway and the Trustees discussed possible plans to welcome our conference staff to the building on moving day or shortly thereafter.

 **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, February 16h at 7:00pm. It is possible, however, that we will cancel that meeting and meet again via conference call on Tuesday, March 7th at 4:00pm. A decision about the 2/16 meeting will be made and communicated to all members via e-mail from the Secretary.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm following a prayer offered by Jack Keating.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Keating

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Secretary