**Upper New York Annual Conference**

**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**

 **June 17, 2017**

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

Ex-officio Present: Mr. Scott Delconte.

This meeting was held at the UNYUMC Conference Center and the Secretary determined that a quorum was present.

The meeting was called to order by President Rich Barling, at 10:10am.

An opening devotion and prayer was offered by Jack Keating based on the Church being bearers of hope for the world.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The Trustees leadership Team presented the following slate of Officers for election:

 President – Rev. Richard Barling

 Vice president – Mr. Peter Abdella

 Treasurer – Mrs. Kathy King-Griswold

 Secretary – Rev. Jack Keating

With Conference Chancellor Scott Delconte presiding, Pam Deckard moved and Nathan Trost seconded that we accept the slate of proposed Officers. The motion carried unanimously.

Barbara Brewer moved that the Secretary be authorized to cast one representative ballot to elect each person nominated. Nathan Trost seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Scott Delconte declared the officers elected.

**NEW BOARD MEMBER**

The Trustees welcomed Mr. Robert Dietrich to the Board following his election at Annual Conference for a three year term. In this same election Richard Barling and Barbara Brewer were also elected for another three year term. Bob introduced himself to the Board members and spoke of his previous experience in his local church and career.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES**

A motion was made by Barb Brewer and seconded by Kathy King-Griswold to accept the minutes of the June 6, 2017 conference call meeting as they were presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PROPERTY UPDATES**- Pam Deckard guided us through the “Status of properties” for updates that have occurred since our June 6th meeting:

1. Former Talcottville UMC – Pam Deckard reported that an offer of $31,500 has been received on this property. The offer was accepted by John Frary and Howard Simonin.
2. Rensselear: Emmanuel UMC – The Board agreed to authorize Pam Deckard and Rich Barling to investigate using an auction company to sell this property.
3. Former Showers UMC – Barb Brewer and Cheryl Brown will also investigate an auction company to try to sell this property.
4. Former James Street UMC – Rich Barling reported that there was a showing on this property this past Thursday. An interested party is considering making an offer for the property.
5. Recent Completed Sales include:
6. Former Albion UMC – Sold for $37,000. Proceeds of the sale go the Albion Church.
7. Former Buckton UMC – Property sold for $11,000.
8. Former Union Valley UMC – Property sold for $5,000.

Based on these kinds of sales amounts we had a long discussion about the financial sustainability of the Board of Trustees. While these kinds of sales prices might not be the norm, we cannot financially continue to expend the dollars for upkeep while getting this kind of return for our investment.

1. New Adirondack Parsonage Acquisition – Rich Barling and Hal Schmidt will make up the team to begin looking at acquiring a new parsonage in the Adirondack District.

**INSURANCE SUB COMMITTEE UPDATES** – Peter Abdella covered the following:

1. Past Due Premium Balances – The current list provided by Pat Toukatly shows $97,500 in arrearages from our local churches. We hope this amount drops as we move through the policy year.
2. Water sensor Program – This program is now on the Trustees page on the conference web site and has been publicized at Church Mutual’s booth at our recent Annual Conference. Church Mutual will be working with the Cabinet District Superintendents to try to expand this program.
3. Risk Management workshops – Church Mutual will be offering a combination of in-person seminars and webinars to get the needed safety information out to our local churches. We hope better risk management might eventually lead to premium cost reductions for all local churches and conference properties.
4. United Methodist Insurance Group – This group has had some communications with local churches in our conference. The subcommittee will draft a letter to UMI asking them to stop this practice.

**FINANCE UPDATES** – Kathy King-Griswold reported on the following:

1. Kathy reported that, per our Conference Treasurer, shared ministry receipts are up 5.8% while direct billing receipts are down 5.3% through May 2017.
2. Stecher Fund Investment – A discussion involving Kathy King-Griswold, Kevin Domanico and representatives of Westpath Investments are taking place regarding investment options for this fund. We will be updated when more information is available.
3. New CCRM Finance Line Needed – In order to aid in keeping track of available funds, CCRM has requested that a new finance “accounting line” be created for the recording of monies received from the sale of properties to be used for capital expenditures and improvements. A motion was made by Jack Keating and seconded by Peter Abdella to ask the Conference Treasurer to establish a finance “accounting line” for the net proceeds from the sale of CCRM controlled properties. Sales proceeds would be added to this “accounting line” after approval of the Board of Trustees. The motion was approved unanimously.
4. CF & A/Leadership Team Letter regarding arrearages – The Board of Trustees has been asked to approve a letter to be sent to local churches regarding arrearages from 2014 and earlier. Kathy King-Griswold offered to get us more information on this situation prior to our next meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Former UMC update – There is no update available as we are still awaiting a DEC letter of approval to move forward on this situation.
2. Lakewood UMC Loan update – The requested funds have been delivered and the needed loan forms have been received. Rich Barling will follow up with Bill Gottschalk-Fielding on this situation.
3. Former UMC update – Scott Delconte updated the Board on this situation. A new date for a meeting of the parties is being set.
4. Camp Findley update – We discussed the current situation at the Camp Findley property.
5. Windfarm update – Per Scott Delconte it appears that a possible 4 turbines are planned near our property at Sky Lake. The project continues to move forward, the financial reports look very good and plans continue to move forward from this company. Since there is no action required from us at this time, we will await further updates as information is available. Kathy King-Griswold moved and Peter Abdella seconded a motion that the President appoints two Trustees to oversee this project in consultation with the Conference Chancellor. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Conference Center update – Barb Brewer reports that the building is finished and she has turned over all computer documents to Pat Toukatly on our conference staff. Barb reports that her work and the work of the Construction Oversight team is done. Barb will prepare a one page financial recap for posting on the conference web site.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. A resolution authorizing the sale of the former Camp Asbury Director’s home was read. Kathy King-Griswold moved and Cheryl Brown seconded it approval. The motion carried unanimously.
2. Asset Allocation Team – Cheryl Brown reported that she has begun working with Pam Deckard on the Asset Allocation project. They will need some help and will prepare a spreadsheet for the Board’s recommendations and approval. This work will continue and updates will be made as they are available.
3. Camp Asbury waterfront lots – Peter Abdella, Cheryl Brown and Scott Delconte are working on this project.
4. Scott Delconte reports that the 2016 Book of Discipline has some changes so that the descriptive phrase of abandoned/discontinued churches is now closed churches.
5. Scott also reported on some of the repercussions being experienced, in other Annual Conferences, as a result of the human sexuality discussions taking place across our denomination. There have been property and financial repercussions to some of these actions.

 **OTHER BUSINESS** – There was no other pressing business needing to be conducted at this time.

 Our next meeting is scheduled to via conference call, on Thursday, July 20th at 7:00pm. The secretary will distribute call-in instructions and a proposed agenda prior to this call.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35pm following a motion by Cheryl Brown and a second by Kathy King-Griswold.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Keating

Jack Keating

Secretary