**Upper New York Annual Conference**

**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**

**February 2, 2019**

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

Ex-officio Present: Mr. Peter Abdella, Ms. Pat Toukatly, Rev. E. Bassett, Mr. B. Flask, Rev. W. Gottshcalk-Fielding.

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

The meeting was called to order by President Richard Barling at 10:05am.

An opening devotion was offered by Rich Barling based on “We Are the Body”.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Hal Schmidt moved and John Frary seconded a motion to accept the 11/18/18 minutes as presented by the Secretary. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Jack Keating and seconded by Hal Schmidt to accept, with regrets, the resignations of Peter Abdella and Pam Deckard as Conference Trustees, effective 2/1/19. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by the Secretary to nominate Hal Schmidt for the office of Vice President of the Conference Trustees. The motion was seconded by Kathy King-Griswold. There were no additional nominations and the motion was approved unanimously.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PROPERTY**

1. Property – We had a long discussion about how to replace Pam Deckard as our Property Coordinator. As we seek to fill these shoes, Pat Toukatly was gracious to offer to help us in the interim.
2. District Parsonages – Everett reported that inspections are underway. These should be completed in the next month so that we can formulate a list of “priorities” across our conference’s District parsonages. Inspections should be sent to Pat Toukatly when completed.
3. A resolution updating the President’s ability to assign two Trustees to each of our closed church properties was presented. A motion was made by John Frary and seconded by Cheryl Brown to approve this resolution. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Bill Gottschalk-Fielding discussed some possible ideas for funding the work of conferences Archives and History group relating to closed churches. After discussion, John Frary moved and Kathy King-Griswold seconded a motion that we allocate $500 from the sale of every closed church to support the work of Archives and History. The motion was approved unanimously.
5. We updated every closed church location on our list and Pat Toukatly agreed to develop a spreadsheet for our use with this information.

**INSURANCE**

1. Rich reported on the Jan. 23 Safety Group Meeting with Church Mutual. Our water sensor program is still proceeding slowly and we talked about ways to speed up the implementation of this program. The subcommittee is discussing the publication of the ALICE materials for our churches. We talked about a recent church fire situation and the fact that many churches are not providing property coverage for the personal contents of pastors living in our parsonages. The group also discussed the current dividend programs and we have asked Church Mutual to revise the existing allocation of dividends.

**FINANCE**

1. Kathy reported that negotiations continue on the use of an investment fund and we hope to have these negotiations successfully completed in the next 3-6 months.
2. Net Assets Allocation – Work is still being done on this project including funds controlled by the Trustees. Kathy is working with Beth Dupont, our Finance Manager to complete this work.
3. Current Funding Formula – The current funding formula for the Trustees is not sustainable. Our expenses with closed churches continue to outpace our income. After discussion we agreed that we may need to consider a different allocation formula to cover the expenses of the Board of Trustees. This work will continue in the coming months.
4. 2020 Budget request – Since we have received no budget request for Shared Ministry from CF&A, the Treasurer has not prepared a budget request. Kathy completed the request during the meeting and submitted it electronically.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Cornerstone District Parsonage – After discussion on this situation regarding the furnace, John Frary made a motion to approve $5,902 to get the needed work completed. The motion was seconded by Cheryl Brown and passed unanimously.
2. Susquehanna Conference request – We received a request from the Susquehanna conference, which we forwarded to the Conference Chancellor for his opinion.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Buffalo COS request – As the Buffalo extension program is closing, Jack Keating made the motion to authorize the Conference Treasurer to return the funds being held to the program. Hal Schmidt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
2. Mohawk District parsonage – We discussed the tree removal estimate we have received. Since the Board had additional questions, Bob Dietrich is going to get additional information so we can made a decision on needed action.

Our next meeting will be held, via conference call, on Tuesday, March 5th at 4:00pm. Our next in-person meeting will be held on Saturday, April 27th at 10:00am at the Conference Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20pm, following a prayer offered by John Frary.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Keating

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Secretary