**Upper New York Annual Conference**

**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**

**August 7, 2018**

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

Ex-officio Present: Mr. Scott Delconte, Rev. Everett Bassett.

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 4:00pm.

An opening prayer was offered by Rich Barling.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Hal Schmidt moved and Kathy King-Griswold seconded a motion to accept the 7/3/18 minutes as presented by the Secretary. The motion carried unanimously.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PROPERTY** Pam Deckard led us through a review of Schedule A (attached). The following are updates to that Schedule A:

1. Former UMC- Health problems with the buyer’s attorney have delayed the progress here. Rich Barling and Scott Delconte continue to work to bring this sale to completion.
2. Former Albany District UMC – moving toward sale with a $4,000 offer.
3. Former Ellenburg UMC – should be on the market soon.
4. Former Kenyontown UMC – we are investigating a possible conveyance to the local historical society for this property.
5. Former Blockville UMC – Barb Brewer is meeting with a realtor to investigate other options for sale.
6. Former Smithville Center UMC – Nate Trost and Joyce Miller are the 2 assigned Trustees on this property.
7. Former Cornerstone District UMC – we continue to attempt to recover funds improperly disbursed prior to the church’s closing. Scott Delconte, Rich Barling and Jack Keating will continue in these efforts.
8. Former Watervilet UMC – Rich Barling and Hal Schmidt will be the 2 assigned Trustees on this property.
9. Former Cattaraugus UMC – Kathy King-Griswold reports that members of the former congregation are maintaining this closed church location.
10. Former Binghamton District UMC – the Trustees will now be responsible for selling both the church & parsonage.

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

1. Investment Fund – Scott Delconte continues to work to complete the negotiation process for use of this fund from one of our predecessor conferences.
2. The consolidation paperwork is close to court approval which would release some funds for immediate conference ministry usage.
3. Proposed Investment Policy – Kathy reports that work continues with CFA and other parties and we hope to have a completed policy ready for approval and action in the next few meetings.

**INSURANCE** Peter Abdella reports:

1. The Subcommittee continues to work with several vendors relative to the insurance RFP process. So far meetings have been held with the incumbent carrier and one of the interested companies working to provide a quotation.
2. Our 2018 losses continue to look much better than 2017. Both the frequency and severity of our losses have been reduced this year.
3. Scott Delconte is attempting to get information from Church Mutual about any current lawsuits.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Mission Hub door – the new door we approved is being completed.
2. Back-up generator at Conference Center – the first estimate was in excess of the $20,000 we approved for this work. Rich Barling continues working with other vendors and the Town of Clay to complete this project as soon as possible.
3. Albany District UMC loan – Peter Abdella reports that no update is available on this situation.
4. Mohawk District UMC loan refinance – Kathy reported that there was some concern about the paperwork received from Adirondack Bank and its requirements of the Annual Conference. Work continues between the Chancellor and the attorneys for Adirondack Bank.
5. Crossroads District Church – Scott has had some preliminary discussions with an attorney who is a member of this congregation. Scott will be preparing a position paper for formal contact with the church.
6. Windfarm update – The project continues moving forward and looks to be in good shape.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Former Binghamton District UMC – we discussed the expenditures made by the former congregation between the closing charge conference and the end of their ministry. We may need to enter into a discussion with the Cabinet to attempt to find a way to stop these situations from occurring. Everett and Scott will be discussing this with the Cabinet.
2. Former Friend UMC – the church has closed and, although the former congregation is anxious to get the sale process moving, we have not yet received any closing documents from the Cabinet allowing us to move forward. We did assign Rich Barling and Pam Deckard to be our assigned Trustees on this property.
3. Adirondack District UMC – Hal updated the Board on some discussion that has taken place between he and the new DS. We will get additional information when it becomes available for possible action.
4. Buffalo District parsonage – Cheryl Brown had some questions about budget limits for work desired by the new DS. Cheryl will attempt to get more information for us at a future meeting.

Our next meeting will be held at the Conference Center on Saturday, September 22nd at 10:00am. Since this meeting is already scheduled, we will NOT be having a conference call meeting on September 4th.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm, following a motion made by Pam Deckard and seconded by Kathy King-Griswold. Rich Barling offered a word of prayer to send us on our way.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Keating

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Secretary