**Upper New York Annual Conference**

**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**

**September 22, 2018**

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

Ex-officio Present: Ms. Pat Toukatly, Mr. Mike Huber, Mr. Robert Flask

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 prayer was offered by Rich Barling.

The Board of Trustees welcomed Robert Flask, our new Conference Treasurer and Ex-officio member.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES**

John Frary moved and Hal Schmidt seconded a motion to accept the 8/7/18 minutes as presented by the Secretary. The motion carried unanimously.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

1. Former Hagamann UMC – Rich Barling reports that we hope to have the completed paperwork back from the buyer’s attorney in the next two weeks.
2. Former Hicks UMC – no update.
3. Former Morristown UMC – no update.
4. Former Lockwood UMC – no update.
5. Former Albany District UMC – on the way to closing. The buyer is occupying the building and paying a monthly rental fee of $365. The purchase price is $100,000.
6. Former Crossroads District UMC – Rich reported we have received an offer of $125,000. The Chancellor is working with the attorney for the perspective buyer.
7. Former Mineral Springs UMC – no update.
8. Former Albany District UMC – we have a $4,000 offer and are moving toward closing.
9. Former Ellenburg UMC no update. The building is listed at $45,000.
10. Former Kenyontown UMC – no update.
11. Former Cornerstone District UMC – Offer accepted for $50,000. Moving toward closing.
12. Former Smithville Center UMC – no update.
13. Former Cornerstone District UMC – no update.
14. Former Perrysburg Dayton UMC – Listed at $49,900.
15. Former Starkey UMC – going back on the market.
16. Former Binghamton District UMC – The insurance claim has been approved and we will have to pay the $1,000 deductible. Nate also needs someone to do yard work for both buildings. The parsonage is listed for $99,000.
17. Former Stannards UMC – no update.
18. Former Watervilet UMC – This property is on the market and Hal Schmidt will make contact with the realtor who is working to develop a listing price suggestion.
19. Former Friend UMC – Rich will reach out to the church contact to move this along.
20. Former Calvary Vestal UMC – The pastor will be helping to clean out the parsonage to get the building ready for sale.
21. Former Cattaraugus UMC – This was new to the Trustees at the end of June. Kathy and Peter are moving this toward being ready to be listed.
22. Former Oneonta District UMC – The town accepted the price of $10,000. The Chancellor is working with the town’s attorney.
23. Current Mohawk District UMC – The closure process has not yet started so this property is not really in our hands.

We had a long discussion about suggestions for the time of church closure relative to the protection of church assets. Rich will communicate our concerns to the Bishop and we will seek additional information from the Chancellor about the divesting of funds by local churches prior to their closing Charge Conference. The Secretary will write a letter to the Bishop and Cabinet (with a cc to Bill Gottschalk-Fielding) about our concerns regarding the disbursements of funds and audits at the time of church closings.

1. Barb Brewer discussed the need to consider air conditioning at one of our District parsonages. The new District Superintendent has requested new air conditioning units to replace the window air conditioners at the home. Barb made a motion, which was seconded by Joyce Miller, to accept the Adema proposal for up to $18,000 to add air conditioning to the Niagara District parsonage. By a vote of 1 yes and 7 no this motion was defeated. We will develop a list of additional information and pictures needed to revisit this issue at a future meeting.

**INSURANCE** The Secretary reported the following for this subcommittee:

1. The RFP process will be completed in the next few weeks. Proposals are due to the Conference Center by close of business on October 1, 2018. The Subcommittee will meet with the vendors on October 10th and make a recommendation to the full Board for action prior to 11/1/18.
2. Jack Keating moved and Kathy King-Griswold seconded a motion to create an emergency fund using 50% ($65,000) from our recent WC insurance dividend check. Motion passed unanimously.

**CRM UPDATE** Mike Huber reviewed CRM activities and on-going projects (attached)

1. A motion was made by Hal Schmidt and seconded by John Frary to change the internal designation from “Camperships at Camp Asbury” to “Capital Projects at Camp Asbury” after approval by the CRM and Cabinet. Motion carried unanimously.

**FINANCE** Treasurer Kathy King-Griswold reports:

1. Kathy reviewed our expenses at each building location as of her 5/31 report of a few weeks ago.
2. Kathy updated the Board on the status of our conference loan fund.
3. A Designated Fund update – Despite repeated attempts, negotiations continue by the Chancellor to reach agreement with one of the designees on this fund. Progress has been difficult and litigation may be necessary to find agreement.
4. Fund Consolidation – Kathy reported that the NY State court has approved the consolidation plan and has also approved the release of designated funds with a balance of less than $11,000. The Secretary reminded the Board about the use of these released funds and the need to attempt to be true to the original designations of the givers of the funds, wherever possible.
5. Draft Investment Policy – Kathy gave the background on how the proposed Investment Policy was created. The policy no longer includes funds held by the Board of Pensions. Kathy moved and Hal Schmidt seconded a motion that the policy be approved, with the grammatical changes approved by CFA. The motion carried unanimously. Barb Brewer moved and Hal Schmidt seconded a motion that Robert Dietrich and Kathy King-Griswold serve as Trustee representatives on the Investment Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Windfarm update – Mike Huber updated the Board on the status of the windfarm project. The Annual Conference has already received the first payment and the project continues to move forward. Mike reported that the first turbine could be constructed starting in 2020. We do not yet know if any conference property will be used for the building of turbines.
2. Conference Center Building needs:
3. Backup Generator – The equipment is in the process of being acquired. We have previously

approved this purchase and the total amount will not exceed our previous approval. The equipment should be installed in October.

1. Mission Center door – this project has not yet been completed. The work was previously

approved by the Board and the funding is coming for Mission Hub funds.

1. Mountainview District Parsonage - A telephone vote conducted last week produced unanimous approval for work on the water problems in the parsonage basement. The total bid is $13,620. The work should start on 11/1/18 and should take 2-3 days to complete.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Albany District Parsonage team – Hal Schmidt and Bob Dietrich will make up this team and Rich will communicate with the Bishop about when the team should start its work of securing a parsonage for the Albany District.
2. Bob Flask asked about policies that may be needed prior to the upcoming special session of General Conference. No specific policies have been adopted by the Board at this time.

Our next meeting will be held via conference call on Thursday 10/18/18 at 7:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm, following a prayer offered by John Frary to send us on our way.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Keating

Jack Keating, Secretary