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Board of Trustees
Upper New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

Meeting Minutes

The meeting convened in Syracuse, NY on Friday afternoon, March 4th. The President presided and the Secretary was absent. S. Butler was appointed Secretary Pro Tempore.

Members Present

S. Butler, D. Byers, T. Clemow, B. Conklin, W. Deichman-Edwards, D. Flemming, E. Harding, J. Jackson, R. Rood, T. Sivers, T. Wolfe

Excused: L. Mount

Ex-Officio: Scott DelConte, Sherri Mackey, Cathy Stengel

T. Wolfe offered a meditation regarding a couple who built their home aligned with the universe (via the North Star) rather than with the world (via nearby houses and the street) and encouraged us to always align our lives with our Creator.

Camping and Retreat Facilities

Michael Huber, newly appointed Associate Director of Camping and Retreat Ministries, presented photos and information giving an overview of our Camping and Retreat facilities and highlighting several issues for future consideration.

Rules of Order

Chairperson T. Clemow called the meeting to order. Minutes of our February 2, 2011 Conference Call meeting were not available for adoption. On previous recommendation from L. Mount, The Modern rules of Order, Third Edition, by Donald A. Tortorice was adopted unanimously as our standard basis of operation.

Motion: by Rood/Byers to authorize an \$8000 payment from Camping revenues to the Silver Lake Assn. for their annual assessment. Adopted.

Abandoned Properties

S. DelConte reported: – Abandoned properties at Fosterville, Rotterdam Jct., Upper Jay, and Lafargeville are under contract for sale and proceeding toward closure. We have also agreed on a price of \$65,000 for sale of Keene UMC property. North Columbia & Columbia Center are officially discontinued. Chancellor will continue to seek to sell them to local groups that are

1 attempting to become legal entities. Chilson UMC: Chancellor is in conversation with former
2 church treasurer Lois Gunning concerning payment for legal costs involved in transferring the
3 building, property and cemetery to the local cemetery association.

4 **Adjournment**

5 The meeting was adjourned for dinner and inspection of Annual Conference offices under
6 construction in the University UMC education building.

7 SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 5, 2011

8 Meeting reconvened at Cicero UMC.

9 Present: S. Butler, D. Byers, T. Clemow, B. Conklin, W. Deichman-Edwards, D. Flemming,
10 E. Harding, J. Jackson, R. Rood, T. Sivers, T. Wolfe

11 T. Sivers offered a prayer for all our connections.

12 **Conference Center Buildings**

13 Former Annual Conference Center building reports: (T. Clemow re: Endicott) A purchase offer is
14 pending. Appraisal is in process. The former Wyoming Conference archives will need to be
15 moved to Saratoga. (T. Clemow re: Saratoga) Maintenance responsibilities are still unclear. He
16 will speak with S. Mackey to begin forming a long-term solution. (R. Rood re: Amherst) There is
17 a prospective tenant for the entire building. If a lease offer is accepted, the present occupants
18 will need to move. Former Western NY Conference archives need to be moved to Saratoga. He
19 will seek a professional building evaluation and consult with other UNY Conference leaders
20 regarding possible long-term building uses.

21 (One-hour adjournment for Governance Team meetings)

22 **Governance Team Reports**

23 **Insurance Team:** T. Sivers reporting. The team will request a monthly report from Sean Keenan
24 of the Walsh-Duffield Agency regarding all new and open claims. The team will also talk with
25 Sean regarding definitions of insurable Church Activities. They will also discuss refinements of
26 church replacement cost figures and communicate applicable info to churches and leaders
27 through all available Annual Conference channels. The team is also considering holding regional
28 info sessions throughout the Conference and inviting staff members from Walsh-Duffield to
29 the upcoming Annual Conference session. Another idea is to begin a Church Property Profile

1 database similar to the Clergy Profiles and Church Profiles already established. An inventory is
2 needed of all Federated Churches. There are possible Workers' Compensation coverage issues
3 involved. D. Flemming will coordinate our investigation of possible coverage for Actual Cash
4 Value rather than Replacement Cost for church buildings that are listed for sale. (See UNY
5 Trustee Minutes of Nov. 19, 2011, p. 6-7)

6 **Investment Team:** D. Byers reporting. She will re-send her memo of Feb. 25, 2011 to all
7 Trustees containing a draft Request for Proposals to prospective investment brokerage firms
8 with a deadline of Tuesday, March 8, 2011 for our comments and approval.

9 **Property Team:** S. Butler reporting. W. Deichman-Edwards has agreed to chair this team. Local
10 teams, including perhaps the District Committees on Building and Location, are needed to
11 manage active and unused properties in their local areas. Trustees in each district will be asked
12 to coordinate this effort. Two Trustees will still need to be assigned to each abandoned or
13 discontinued church. T. Wolfe and J. Jackson will develop a template for keeping track of each
14 property and its needs. We also hope to consolidate a complete spreadsheet of all active and
15 inactive properties held by the Trustees including names and contact information for those
16 overseeing each property. The following assignments were reported or adopted: Nicholville, T.
17 Clemow & T. Sivers; Mooers & Mooers Forks, S. Butler & B. Conklin; VanEtten, E. Harding & T.
18 Clemow; Fabius, T. Wolfe & D. Flemming; Ephrata, S. Butler; Jamestown, J. Jackson and W.
19 Deichman-Edwards; North Cambridge, D. Byers and B. Conklin; Hawleyton, T. Clemow; Delphi
20 Falls, T. Clemow & D. Flemming. Cemeteries in Brakel and Wheeler Center need assignments.
21 The team hopes to continue its work with a conference call.

22 **Future Meetings**

23 Conference Call Meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, April 27 at 7:00 pm and Wednesday,
24 May 18 at 7:00 pm. We also agreed to meet in Rochester on Tuesday evening, June 7 at 7:00
25 pm if needed.

26 Stephen C. Butler
27 Secretary Pro Tempore

28 

29 Lee Mount
30 Secretary