

**Dunbar United Church of Christ - Minutes of 2013 Annual Meeting  
January 19, 2014**

Jim Arseniadis called the meeting to order at 11:11am, January 19, 2014.

There were 34 of 133 members present, meeting the quorum requirement of 25%.

The congregation sang "Are Ye Able".

A motion was made by Jeff Hamilton to accept last year's minutes with no corrections. Kathy Straka seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Jim Arseniadis spoke to recognize all the board and committee chairs and others who have helped throughout the year.

The budget was presented by Steve Hurd.

- This is the first time in twenty years that the pledges are greater than the income received from the endowment.
  - Line 28A - Deacons' Operating Expense - shows an increase of \$1000 to cover expenses from Norm Bendroth.
  - Line 34 - Events - Rally Day/Picnic - is new to help with costs incurred since we started inviting the larger community to such events.
  - Line 35 - Maintenance - shows an increase of \$1000 because of additional maintenance that needs to be done.
  - A comment was made that there used to be an account that people could borrow money from. That account no longer exists. A question was raised that maybe we should have that account back again.
- A motion was made by Ann Watjen to accept the budget. Tom Parlipiano seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

There was a moment of silence for our dearly departed.

#### Nominations

- Assistant Treasurer - Steve Hurd
  - Board of Christian Education - Stacey Borzillo (to 2017)
- A motion was made by Sandy Kops to accept the nomination slate. Chuck Walters seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The congregation sang Happy Birthday to Chuck Walters.

There was a call for volunteers for an informal Video Committee to record services and events and make copies of those recordings available on DVD. George and Joe Braen volunteered for the committee.

#### Questions and New Business

- Dale Long asked if Blue Trail should play at the St. Patrick's Day dinner on March 15th. By a show of hands it was decided that Blue Trail should play.
- The following is the discussion that occurred regarding the expenditure of some of the funds in the endowment.
  - Ted Endriss
    - Ted would like some money taken from the endowment for capital expenses such as a new elevator, roof on the parsonage, new boilers, and kitchen facilities.
  - Kathy Straka
    - The endowment is approx. \$2.3 million. At the last meeting with the financial consultants, they showed that we could remove approx. \$30k in underperforming assets.
  - Meg Nowaki
    - This topic needs to be in the annual meeting agenda. It is not. So even if we agree, we cannot vote on it.
  - Tom Parlipiano
    - Agrees that we need to spend the money. Does not want to take it out of the endowment. Perhaps we can have a capital fundraising campaign.
  - Noreen Endriss
    - Asking people to keep contributing is a turn off.
  - Tom Parlipiano
    - We need to make a commitment to improvements. The church members need to be given an opportunity to contribute.

- Ted Endriss
  - As we upgrade things in need of replacement, we lower our operating budget (expenses).
- Tom Parlipiano
  - We can do this without taking money out of the endowment.
- Steve Hurd
  - We need a plan. We need to know what will happen to the endowment income if we take money out of the endowment. We need to know what we will do with that money and how we will pay it back. We need options written out. We need to know what the impact will be.
- Tom Parlipiano
  - Maybe we need a capital projects committee.
- Kathy Straka
  - We need to think about this differently. Not everything has a payback. Let's get this done this year.
- Debbie Laffin
  - Tired of broken stuff and stuff that needs maintenance. Send the letter out and get it done.
- Joe Braen
  - There is \$13k in the budget for capital expenses.
- Debbie Laffin
  - Make the money available.
- George Braen
  - From November to present, we used 560 gallons of oil. Usually we use 1000 gallons. This is a result of new windows, weather stripping, and lowering the temperature in the parish house. We can get windows now at a good price. We are doing stuff to improve (windows, lights, etc.).
- Bruce Detmers
  - We use the income from interest and dividends for operating expenses and capital improvements. He has gone to the banks and inquired about loans. But the banks want payback in three years at 6% interest. The church cannot afford those payments. The New York Symphony Orchestra took money out of their endowment and ended up having no money left and were no longer able to continue. If you want these things (capital improvements) then give more money to the church.
- Ted Endriss
  - Thanks Bruce for the hard work he has done with the endowment and investments. But we're not asking for much. The buildings are approx. 60 years old. You have to spend money to save money.
- Jeff Torone
  - Dealing with capital expenses on an emergency basis are up to 100% more expensive than planning ahead.
- Heather Sibley
  - Why is basic maintenance not in the budget?
- Steve Hurd
  - Basic maintenance is in the budget. Maintenance is \$6k. Capital is \$13k. To reiterate, we need a committee to show what the impact will be if we take money out of the endowment. We need a plan to show the options.
- Meg Nowacki
  - Would like to make a motion that a committee be established to investigate options for capital expenses.
- Jim Arseniadis
  - The trustees do that already.
- Meg Nowack
  - Would like to amend the motion that within 60 days the trustees present a list of capital expenses with options.
- Tom Parlipiano
  - The list should include all options (not just taking money out of the endowment). Meg agrees.
- Jim Arseniadis
  - It's great to have this discussion here, out in the open. There are a lot of options. Perhaps we need a committee to explore options to pay for capital expenses.
- Debbie Laffin
  - Would like to request that trustees and finance get together, form the plan, and send it out to the congregation.
- Jim Arseniadis

- Made a request for a motion that "**Within 60 days, the Trustees and Finance Committee put together a list of the requested capital expenses with options for payment and the impact those options will have on the endowment. This information will be mailed to the congregation.**"
- Noreen Endriss made the motion.
- Debbie Laffin seconded.
- Motion passed.

The gavel was then passed to Dale Long, the new moderator.

Tom Palipiano made a motion to accept all board and committee reports. Deb Laffin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim Arseniadis made a motion to adjourn. Bob Corona seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy J. Braen  
DUCC Clerk