

February 2012 Minutes

Board Members Present: Mary Lee Keane, Linda O’Gwynn, Betsy Gabriel, Tom Ott., Andrea Parry, Mark Bernstein., Walt Ceglowski, Norman Mattlock, Len Windle

Non Board Members Present: Kent Matthies, Carolyn Cotton

Minutes: Minutes approved

Finance:

Carolyn Cotton gave a recap of the financial issues.

Renovations:

The fans currently in the Sullivan Chapel now do not work. They require an electrical upgrade. Estimates for this were higher than expected and the committee is considering whether it would be more efficient to install air conditioning units. The committee is considering the options. The electrical upgrade was budgeted but at this time it is unclear how it will affect the fans.

The committee is considering whether to install a screen and a projector rather than the flat-screen TV which was originally planned.

Austin Youth Lodge:

The Nursery School in the AYL pays \$1250 per month and contributes to snow removal expenses.

The apartment on the 2nd floor is \$1200 per month.

Mount Airy Home School:

The number of families in the MAHS is down significantly. We are anticipating a decline in the income provided by their use of our building of approximately \$10,000 this fiscal year. Carolyn has been negotiating with the group for much of the fall.

Walt Ceglowski highlighted general finance issues.

Although revenue was down somewhat from what had originally been budgeted, because of the mild and snowless winter, we currently have \$6000 surplus. It was pointed out, however, that this should not be taken as a surplus per se since it is due primarily to the warm winter. Mary Lee will speak with Buildings and Grounds so that they do not assume that the money can be used by B&G.

Walt also stated that a representative from the Trillium Fund will have volunteered to come to USG to provide insight into how the endowment is being managed. The date will be March 11, 2012.

Budgeting:

April meeting will be about budget. The committee will lay out the possibilities. We will then aim to approve the budget by May. May try to move the income projection to March.

The question was raised as to whether the board should develop a budgeting policy. It was suggested that the board should develop such a policy but not until after this budget has been developed and approved.

Maternity/Paternity Leave

Betsy Gabriel presented a proposal for a leave policy. The board had some concerns about the policy as it was written and asked Betsy and the personnel committee to review it further.

Motion: Considering Kent's length of service that we will extend up to 4 weeks paid to be used with the understanding that a policy will be established and that this will not be construed as policy.

The motion carried.

Annual Meeting

According to the bylaws, the annual USG meeting must be held in May. However for a variety of reasons, this year the annual meeting must be held in June. **However, Dave Dearden stated that the meeting could be moved without changing the bylaws.**

Motion: The board president has the authority to move the Annual Meeting from May to June due to conflict in May.

The motion carried.

Discussion:

Concerns were raised regarding how to inform members of the annual meeting. There appears to be no legislative reason not to use email. Members who regularly receive notices via email, will continue to be notified this way. For members who do not have computer access, USG will continue to use the postal service.

Discussion:

What are some ways to involve more members of the congregation? Kent pointed out that USG's greatest resource is its members. Having more people be more invested is key to USG's growth and well-being. The board will continue to explore ways to engage more people in more service and activities.

Discussion of Policy Governance was postponed.

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Leni Windle

Secretary