

Governance Council Meeting January 14, 2015 Minutes

Present: Doug Gaddis (Moderator-Elect), David Bennett, Paul Leistra, Amy McKee, Nancy Pielemeier, Sara Smith, Gary Walbridge

Ex Officio: Rev. Tim Tutt (Senior Minister), Rev. Alexi Kassim (Minister for Youth, Adults), Lisa Choate (Clerk)

Absent: Jeanine Derr (Moderator)

The meeting was held in the Westmoreland Library and started at 7:30 p.m.

Spiritual Practice: We all shared things that we are grateful for.

Approval of the agenda

Consent calendar

Resolutions Approving Minutes of the December 2014 meeting as amended and the January 7, 2015 meeting.

Motion 15-GC-1: To approve the December 2014 minutes as amended.

Motion: David Bennett

Second: Amy McKee

Vote: all in favor

Motion 15-GC-2: To approve the January 7 2015 minutes.

Motion: Nancy Pielemeier

Second: Gary Walbridge

Vote: all in favor

Membership Resolutions

Changes in Membership

Joined		
	Dawn Badrick	Dec. 14 Affirmation of Faith
	Polly Gordon	Dec. 14 Letter of Transfer (First Cong. DC UCC)
	Greg Perla	Dec. 14 Letter of Transfer (Ebenezer UCC, Seneca, NY)
	Amy Schoenhard	Dec. 14 Letter of Transfer (Potomac Presbyterian)
	Paul Schoenhard	Dec. 14 Letter of Transfer (Potomac Presbyterian)
Transferred out		
	Rebecca Blank	Dec. 2 First Congregational Church, Madison, WI
	Hanns Kuttner	Dec. 2 First Congregational Church, Madison, WI
Withdrew		
	Catherine Tawes (Assoc.)	Dec. 5
	Pascal Tawes (Assoc.)	Dec. 5
Died		
	Norman Bolz (Assoc.)	Dec. 13

Motion 15 GC-3 Approval of new members, dismissed members, and withdrawn members as indicated in membership report.

Motion: Nancy Pielemeier

Second: Gary Walbridge

Vote: All in favor

Reports

Staff reports

Pastor Tim Tutt. Tim distributed a full report by email. There are plans for a workshop during the Epiphany season and special themes for services during Lent, including the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

Alexis and Tim are hosting a conversation about race tomorrow for UCC colleagues. Tim is also preaching about MLK on Sunday afternoon. In April this and next year, Tim will take part in an exchange with the Evangelical Church of Germany. Hosts will be needed for the Germans who will come. Tim plans to preach at the English speaking Unitarian Universal church in Mexico this summer. He is also working with Alejandro on a trip for the choir in 2016.

Housing. Tim and Amy have extended their lease for another year. Hopefully they will come to an agreement with their landlord her soon and be able to move ahead in spring.

Rev Alexis Kassim. Amy Tutt has transitioned to the Children's Choir directorship. She and Alexis are thinking about creating a support network for the children's choir (accompanist, one or two other adults who can commit to being in the room with the kids to help). The youth group is doing well. They will be going to see *Selma* after the worship service on Sunday. In February, the Little Falls band will do a jam session with the youth, many of whom play instruments.

Mission trip planning. The senior student (Rick Alfonso will accompany June 28 – July 4) and middle school trips (Alexis will manage) will take place at the same time. Twelve students have signed up which is much more than usual.

Clerk of the Rolls

Current Membership

Active Full Members	406	Includes out of area, unable to attend, "seldom seen"
Associate Members	7	Retain primary membership elsewhere
Inactive Members	96	
Children & Youth (not confirmed)	73	Member & active non-member households
Children & Youth (not confirmed)	6	Guest households
Active Non-Members	44	Will not join

Attendance: 3-year comparison - -

Average weekly	Adults	Children/Youth	Total
December 2014	165	23	188
December 2013	160	18	178
December 2012	173	43	216

Guest Tracking

New in 'current month'	New since January	Returned at least once:	Ongoing guests (2+ visits)
Adults: 13	Adults: 88	Adults: 44 (50%)	Adults: 22
Children: 3	Children: 19	Children: 12 (63%)	Children: 8
Total: 16	Total: 107	Total: 56 (52%)	Total: 30

Treasurer. A full report was circulated by email. Mike indicated no issues in the report. There are some bills that we are waiting for, etc., but generally all as expected.

Boards and Committee Liaisons

Deacons. Jeanine normally reports for Deacons, and in her absence there is no report.

BCE. Alexis reported that BCE met last night and talked about some restructuring, perhaps creating some subcommittees but there is much still to be discussed and decided.

Outreach Ministries. Nancy reported that this group voted to propose a name change to Social Justice and Action, which they believe better reflects what that group is about and what they are doing and hope to do. Their goal is to encourage more participation and do more than simply distribute funds to worthy activities. The GC discussed that a name change will have to be done through the by-laws. We anticipate making other bylaw changes in the coming months, so we can include this at that time. Other news is that the Volunteer Corps Board is working on the 30th anniversary celebration which is scheduled for the end of May. Alumni will attend the event.

BMF. Gary reported that he attended the BMF meeting on Sunday. They have added a youth member to the group and discussed 2015 events. Robert Benton and Nate Engel will be co-chairs.

Finance. We discussed this committee's report later in the budget discussion.

Property. David Bennett reported that the property budget ended in the black.

Personnel. No news.

Nominating. Paul and the committee are hopeful that the slate of candidates will be approved on Sunday.

Stewardship. At this moment we have 149 pledge units (households) that total about \$534,000. Nineteen households that pledged last year have not yet pledged this year, approximately \$30,000. Correspondence has been sent from the church encouraging pledging.

Old Business

Trey Holloway and George Christo presented the revised draft budget for 2015, which the GC has already discussed twice. The discussion began with the estimate of income. Anticipated pledge income is 96% of the current pledged amount. The \$75,000 of unpledged income is guesstimated, based on the 2014 actual. Leon had suggested that even \$95,000 might be a more accurate projection, and we agreed to research pledges to determine the best number.

GC members discussed the finals for the 2014 year. The group discussed charges to various expense categories and possible offsetting income. The 2014 year was showing a deficit but in some part due to accounting issues. Overall, the 2014 end-of-year finances show that the budgetary process for 2014 was successful.

For 2015, we will again take 6% of the overall budgeted amount for the endowment, which will be approximately \$48,000. There is also a contribution (bequest) of approximately \$200,000 that does not show up on these sheets yet.

GC discussed several specific line items including music program expenses, which will increase slightly in 2015. There were some offsets in 2014 from dedicated funds. GC pledged to get a better handle on the dedicated accounts in 2015.

The GC then turned to discussion of how to present the budget at the Budget Hearing on Sunday. Gary Walbridge suggested creating a powerpoint with a general overview or executive summary, rather than going through the entire budget. The full 2015 budget document will be available for review, as will the

outcome of 2014. The 2015 budget will indicate a negative balance, much as 2014 did, but we believe based on history that 2015 will also be a positive year.

Doug asked whether there were other budget items to be considered. Westmoreland's contribution to Our Church's Wider Mission was discussed, as were Education and Spiritual Formation costs. There is also a larger contribution to the retreat budget. Nate and Robert (BMF) are interested in the retreat, and at present there is lack of clarity about where it fits in the church management structure.

George and Trey promised to circulate a copy of the budget documents to GC members before Sunday.

Sarah raised the issue of Martell's benefits and salary. His salary should be increased slightly to reflect the lower cost of the insurance he has selected. The 2015 salary, then, should be determined based on that amount. Personnel will provide a new salary letter to Martell.

Motion 15 GC-4. *Music capital expenses (risers) will be made from Music Fund 39.*

Moved: Nancy Pielemeier Second: Paul Leistra Vote: All in favor

GC members discussed the need for rules about how endowment funds are spent and how these are overseen.

Revision of budget calendar - Fiscal re-organization. Revision is needed because the current calendar does not work well for the admin staff, nomination committee, and others. Gary Walbridge and Doug Gaddis have indicated that they will join this group, as will Trey Holloway, Tim Tutt, and Mike Weber. Sarah Wilson indicated that she would not be on the committee but would be able to review documents. Mary Grossnick also indicated interest. This committee may also look at some of the larger issues and systems. The GC moved to table the discussion of a motion to appoint a task force that would make recommendations on the restructuring of boards and committees.

Appoint members of Building 2020 Team.

Motion 14 GC-5. *Appointment of the following members of Westmoreland to the Building 2020 team: David Bennett, Gail Edie, Roy Grossnick, Susan Langley, Amy O'Malley, Sean O'Malley, Nancy Pielemeier, Ben Tutt.*

Motion: Gary Walbridge Second: Sarah Smith Vote: All in favor

The meeting concluded at 9:20 with a closing prayer by Alexis.