

MINUTES OF THE 2018 ANNUAL MEETING
Columbia District Church Extension Society
February 13, 2018, 12:00 pm
Rockwood Community Center

Present: Steve Abeling, Randy Adams, David White, Mildred Riley, Bruce Rogers, Norm Dyer, LaVerne Lewis, Erin Martin, Becca Wieringa, Sherrie Atherly, Adam Jenkins, Lauri Davis, Christy Dirren, Lydia Henry, Alicia Burbidge, Ric Shewell, Laura Jaquith Bartlett, Dan Wilson-Fey, Steve Lewis, Leslie Hall, DJ Antlitz

Absent: Scott Overton, Norm White, Harold Hauser, Donna Ward, Greg Dufault

Following box lunches and fellowship, Steve Lewis welcomed us and offered an opening prayer at 12:34 pm.

Churches represented: Trinity, Portland First, Oak Grove, Christ, West Portland, Portsmouth Union, Tigard (a welcome “interloper” from Cascadia District!), St. Paul’s, Aloha, Metanoia Peace Community and Sunnyside, Gresham, Sellwood Faith Community

Becca lifted up the 17 churches who have contributed 100% of their Extension Society askings (a total of 22 gave some amount).

Approval of Minutes

Laura moved that the minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting be approved as printed. Seconded.
Passed.

Nominating Report

Bruce asked that Mildred Riley be added to the nomination list; she agreed to serve.

Lydia moved the adoption of the nominations report for the Board Officers and Members. Seconded.

Passed.

Recognition of those who have served

Becca expressed gratitude to all those who have done faithful work on behalf of the CDCES over the last year.

Reports

Becca encouraged folks to take the reports packets and share them with church members back at home.

Investment Report

Sherrie Atherly, partner of Greg Dufault (CDCES investment advisor), stepped in to offer the report in place of Greg, who was not able to be with us. These past few days have included the five most volatile days in the history of the stock market. Sherrie expects that the market will continue to be volatile throughout 2018. The Federal Reserve is trying to manage the fears that are rampant as the market experiences this unpredictability. Although slow, the economy is continuing to steadily grow. So the overall news is a mixed bag! In December of 2017, when the year-end reports were prepared (these are included in the reports packet), the market was still very robust. Greg and Sherrie will stay focused on protecting and growing our assets. They are both grateful for the opportunity to work for us.

Focus: Rockwood Center

One of the places where the Fund for Vital Ministry has granted monies is right here at Rockwood. Steve Lewis (pastor of Gresham UMC, the parent church for Rockwood) and LaVerne Lewis (director of the Rockwood Center) made a presentation about the ministry here. They both expressed gratitude for the very significant role the CDCES has played in kick-starting the transformation of Rockwood, as well as Gresham's thriving work with interns (over the last four years, Gresham has hosted about 100 interns!). They showed a five-minute video that outlined the identity change from Rockwood United Methodist Church into The Rockwood Center. The transformation has included everything from new programming to asbestos removal! Steve noted that when the Rockwood UMC merged with Cherry Park UMC, they voted to turn over the property/facility to a brand-new corporation called Gresham United Methodist Ministries (which is anchored to Gresham UMC), and is a 501c3. GUMM rents out the space regularly to support a variety of programs, which generates income to support a variety of ministries, including arts programs, "We-Sew," trunk-or-treat....these are ministries offered for free, thanks to the income generated from rent (Steve calls it a business/ministry model). Steve noted that he and LaVerne are essentially full-time volunteers at the Rockwood Center, although they know that this part of the plan is not sustainable and will need to change; however, they both believe that if they had started by trying to generate enough money to cover staff salaries, they would have been sunk before they had even begun.

Treasurer's Report

David White moved that the 2018 budget be adopted as printed. Seconded.

Passed.

District Superintendent's Report

Erin Martin noted that we are in the process of trying to instigate what it means to be a people who dream! This is exactly what Steve and LaVerne are demonstrating in the creation of the Rockwood Center. The Vital Ministry Fund is a resource that seeds these dreams. We gave out around \$140,000 worth of vital ministry grants in 2017. Last year we held this meeting at the Sunnyside community space, which is doing some of the same kinds of ministry (although in a different way) as at Rockwood. When the Woodlawn UMC closed at the end of 2016, it became a portal for dreaming about a new kind of ministry in that neighborhood—a ministry that helps claim "place" for African-Americans, who have historically called that part of Portland home, but who have been feeling increasingly displaced by white gentrification. Erin also lifted up the

new energy at Wilshire UMC, and celebrated the fact that CDCES funds revitalized the Wilshire parsonage, which is now the home of Rev. Allen Buck and his family; Allen is providing fabulous leadership within the Native American communities in the greater Portland area. She outlined the vision for unleashing the leadership capacity of Columbia District laity, also supported by CDCES funds. Erin proclaimed the crucial role played by the CDCES in this dreaming!

Closing announcements

Becca pointed out that application forms for CDCES grants and loans are printed in the back of the reports packet, and Laura reported that they are also available online on the CDCES web page, which will soon offer the applications as fillable forms that can be completed on a computer. Becca also offered thanks to Laura, who stepped into the administrative assistant role for the CDCES in December. [Note: to access the CDCES web page, visit the annual conference website, www.umo.org, navigate to the district web pages, click on Columbia district, and then on the Columbia District Church Extension Society.]

Becca adjourned the meeting at 1:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Jaquith Bartlett, secretary