

Columbia District Church Extension Society

January 11, 2018

7:00 pm

St. Paul's United Methodist Church (Milwaukie)

Present: Randy Adams, Norm Dyer, DJ Antlitz (St. Paul's representative), Becca Wieringa (president), David White (bookkeeper), Donna Ward, Scott Overton, Laura Jaquith Bartlett (administrative assistant)

Guests: Ron Antlitz

Absent: Millie Riley, Bruce Rogers, Harold Hauser, Alicia Burbidge, Norm White

Becca opened with prayer at 7:06, and invited us specifically to pray for one another.

OLD BUSINESS:

Insurance

Scott noted that we need to have our audit in place; he wants to get a final answer on the audit for 2016 before he looks into insurance issues. Scott is trying to connect with the auditor who did the 2015 report, and hopes that this person will do both 2016 and 2017. Scott has "the box" from Bruce, so he believes that he does have audit reports from 2014 and 2015, which could be sent now to Dan Wilson-Fey, who needs those ASAP (as well as 2016).

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Meeting

Laura will send out a reminder to each person who needs to submit a report, along with the deadline for report submission. Typically, the host pastor will offer a welcome and a prayer (this would be Steve Lewis). The business of the meeting includes: approval of last year's minutes, voting on the budget, nominations and elections, introduction of the investment advisor (with brief report), offering a summary of the work over the last year, a report on vital ministry (Erin), presentation from Rockwood Center (how has the CDCES money impacted the ministry here).

Erin suggested that it would be helpful to have some kind of visual component to the vital ministries report. Becca is willing to work on a slide show. She'll work with Erin on this.

After some discussion, it was decided that the investment committee does not need to meet separately before the annual meeting.

Grant Requests (attached)

Christena Cleveland event: Erin reported that they did receive the Peace with Justice grant. She also noted that to date, 60 people have already registered!

On behalf of the grant committee, Donna moved that the CDCES fund \$2500 for the Christena Cleveland event from the church extension society grant fund to the Columbia District.

Passed

Wesley in the Neighborhood: Erin explained a bit of history on this request: we've been trying for a long time to partner with Warner Pacific, a wonderful resource in our back yard. Amazingly, WP came to *us*, asking to join with the UMC in community engagement! There are four segments to the initiative, all of them centered around the idea of Shalom in the City. An added bonus to the project is that we are working together with the Vancouver district of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference. Erin is excited about the practical component and the coaching/mentoring component of the experiment. Warner Pacific is offering significant resources to the process, which will be about six to nine months. Erin clarified that the overall budget will actually be split between the two districts (Columbia and Vancouver); in addition, each church will be asked for a buy-in, in order to participate. There will be two churches from each district, and each church will contribute \$1000. The PNW conference is taking the lead on the fiscal management of the project, so our grant will be paid out directly to the PNW AC Treasurer, sent to Brant Henshaw (their conference treasurer).

On behalf of the grant committee, Donna moved that the CDCES fund \$6000 for the Wesley in the Neighborhood project from the vital ministry fund to the PNW annual conference.

Passed.

Scott noted that it would be helpful to have a report back from each of the grant projects, so that we have a better understanding of the fruit of our investment. We would also like to follow up on the ongoing grants/loans. **Going forward, the group would like this reporting to be a requirement for receiving the money.**

District Laity Development: Lydia Henry, our district lay leader, explained this bold initiative in reaching and empowering laity in a new way, envisioned by the district's new laity development team (a component of the district strategic plan). The program kicks off in April with a weekend laity retreat. In order to make the weekend affordable, the team is asking for a grant to underwrite the retreat (each participant will still pay \$115 each, although the actual cost is \$250). The grant request also includes support for team development. There was extensive discussion about whether or not to support the cost of underwriting individual participation in a retreat. The members also expressed a great desire for the retreat to involve as many different churches as possible.

On behalf of the grant committee, Donna moved that the CDCES fund \$15,000 for the Laity Development project from the fund for vital ministry, payable to the Columbia District.

Passed.

Treasurer Report

Scott reported that we just wrote checks to churches that are invested with the CDCES. We did a bridge loan to Woori Korean to bide them over until their national grant came through; they

have now paid us back. We received \$104,285.95 from the sale of Bennett Chapel and Pine Grove-Odell.

Bookkeeper Report

David distributed his written report (attached). David reported that all the church loans are current.

Nominations Report

Becca needs to connect with Erin on this before the annual meeting.

District Superintendent Report

Erin is feeling very encouraged at the beginning of 2018. In 2017 the district launched four new ministry starts (Woodlawn, Wilshire, Sunnyside, SE Portland Parish), and also contributed to the transformation of the Rockwood Center. In addition, 2017 saw a third of the district's churches experience new pastoral appointments. As a result of all this, we have an infusion of fresh energy and ideas. The germination has taken over two years, but the sprouts are taking hold and showing great promise! This past year Erin has worked with a team to "plot" the entire district on a giant map, with codes showing those doing vital ministry, those in a period of transition, and those likely facing death. Woodlawn and Wilshire are both showing amazing potential already. Portsmouth Union (formerly University Park) has secured funding for the housing project; they'll break ground in the spring!

Approval of Minutes

There were no changes, so the minutes of Dec. 12, 2017, were approved as posted.

Next Meeting

Annual meeting Feb. 13, noon, at the Rockwood Center ((17805 SE Stark St, Portland, OR 97233); includes lunch

March meeting: March 8, 7pm (Investment Committee at 6:30pm) at Milwaukie-St. Paul's UMC.

Becca reminded members of the district-wide event on March 18, 2-6 pm at West Portland UMC; the CDCES is expected be in attendance. This is a Sunday afternoon gathering with all the boards from the district, to come together to understand the overall ministry and mission vision and to make sure everyone is on the same page with a strategic plan.

Becca adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Jaquith Bartlett
CDCES Administrative Assistant