



## **Columbia District Church Extension Society**

July 12, 2018 7:00 pm

Oregon-Idaho Conference Office

**Present:** Norm Dyer, David White, Donna Ward, Millie Riley, Bruce Rogers, Ric Shewell, Randy Adams, Scott Overton, Alicia Burbidge, Becca Farrester

**Via Zoom Videoconference:** Laura Jaquith Bartlett, Erin Martin

**Absent:** Trudy Pollard, Norm White, DJ Antlitz

Norm moved to approve the May 2018 minutes. Seconded.

**Passed.**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

D&O Insurance: Scott has two interested companies, though he doesn't yet have quotes. He thinks we will not be able to do D&O on its own, so we would need a general insurance policy as a base to add on D&O.

Audit: Scott hasn't been able to get anyone to respond to his inquiries. Scott is suggesting a "non-signer audit." This is simply someone to look at the books, but it would require training someone to know what they're looking at. Erin suggested Laverne Lewis at the Rockwood Center (she is an accountant). Becca will contact Laverne and ask if she would be willing to do this peer audit. We also again mentioned Gary McGee, whose company does the annual conference audit each year.

### Loans & Grants

Becca would like to appoint Donna, Trudy, and David to both the loan and the grant committees, and then to have both committees do their work together. Scott moved that we appoint the same persons to each committee and that they do their work together. Seconded.

**Passed.**

Note: David reported that he finally got a signed promissory note from West Portland.

We have a loan application from the Lents Tongan Fellowship. Scott summarized that they have borrowed from us before. The application is signed by the DS. They are asking to borrow \$25,000 to change the heating system from oil to gas, and to add air conditioning. David had worked out a repayment schedule of 28 months at \$1000/month. Scott suggested amortizing over three years. Our standard interest rate is 4%. Erin offered some background about the Tongan culture in this congregation, in which they handle stewardship much differently than in the dominant culture. She also noted that the church is in a very healthy place right now—significantly than when Erin first started on the district three years ago. She reported an

amazing transformation of the parsonage and the church building. She is strongly in support of the loan to help keep their momentum going. Scott believes we do not need title insurance because the loan is less than \$50,000, but we do need a promissory note. The loan would be \$25,000 at 4% interest with a 3-year repayment plan. The loan committee will handle the promissory note.

Norm moved that we provide the Lents Tongan Fellowship by the first of September a loan of \$25,000 at 4% interest with a 3-year repayment plan, with the payments starting in January 2019. There would be no penalty for early repayment. Seconded.

**Passed.**

Becca will communicate with the congregation, and David will take care of the promissory note and amortization schedule. David reminded us that the money should not be given out until the note comes back signed.

There was some discussion about West Portland. The check was written but it never cleared and the church says it was never received. We consider the matter to be closed. If the church decides it wants the money after all, they will need to re-start the process.

Grants:

- 1) Beaverton First, Vital Ministries application. Donna asked about the previous grant called "Tried by Fire," wondering where Marshall Wattman-Turner is on that one. Erin reported that the District Committee on Ordained Ministry was involved in this, which involved group mentoring and was aimed at our more isolated churches. She hopes that Marshall will write up his final assessment of this. Erin approves of this new grant, but Donna notes that the application does not indicate who the check should be made out to. Erin: the check should go to Beaverton First UMC. The committee recommends that we make the grant.

**Passed.**

- 2) Center for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Ministries, which is a grant request from Gresham United Methodist Ministries. Steve Lewis is working on using Rockwood as a sort of lab for 21<sup>st</sup> century ministries, to stimulate innovation. The check would be made out to Gresham United Methodist Ministries (GUMM). This is also a Vital Ministries grant. The committee recommends that we make the grant.

**Passed.**

## **REPORTS**

Investments: Due to late arrivals at the committee meeting, most of the board was present for the primary business discussion this evening, so a separate report is not necessary.

Nominations: Nothing except for the vote taken earlier to appoint the same membership to both the loans and grants committees, and to empower the two committees to do their work together.

Treasurer: Scott has the quarterly checks ready for the investing churches. We had a request from Troutdale Faith for a withdrawal of \$10,000. Erin corrected her earlier statement that this money is for parsonage work—this is actually not the case. The request came from the SPR chair, which is unusual; usually it would be the trustees or treasurer or pastor, so Scott will ask the church for direct communication from one of those entities before releasing the money.

Bookkeeping: David pointed out that in our CDCES operating budget, he would like people in this room who are from churches that have not paid their asking to please encourage their church to pay the amount. But on closer examination, we realized there's a discrepancy in the reporting, so David will take a second look! Erin suggests that Becca and Ric write personal notes to churches to encourage the askings, with a little "personal testimony" about why they each support this.

District Superintendent: Erin is excited about the new pastoral team concept at Beaverton First (connected with the grant we just approved). She doesn't have much more to say—but is thankful to this group's willingness to be leaders in supporting experimental, bold new ministry.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, September 13, 7:00 pm, location TBD.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Jaquith Bartlett  
CDCES Administrative Assistant/Secretary