



Columbia District Church Extension Society

March 12, 2019 12:00 pm

Oregon-Idaho Conference Center, Albright Room

Present: David White, Laura Jaquith Bartlett, Norm Dyer, Ric Shewell, Donna Ward, Becca Farrester, DJ Antlitz, Joy Atkinson, Randy Adams, Erin Martin, Sho Dozono, Fungalei Taufou, Sandy Lofy

Absent: Scott Overton, Trudy Pollard

Prayers: Table Talks, our district office (Brandon left the state for a family health emergency), Western Jurisdiction leadership committees and teams (meeting at Portland FUMC this week), Sunnyside Community House, St. Paul's UMC, Erin & her family as they move to a new residence

Introductions all around the table, as we welcome our new directors.

January minutes: Laura moved to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2019, meeting. Seconded.
Passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Audit: Norm met with Tom Wilson of the UM Foundation; they might be able to help us with both the audit and our need for D&O insurance. Norm will follow up with Tom Wilson about having someone from the Foundation come to our April meeting to talk with us about the audit and the insurance. However, if the Foundation can help us move forward with either of these two projects sooner than the April meeting, we authorized Norm to go ahead with the Foundation to take action (clarification: this authority is only in terms of the audit and the D&O insurance).

We asked Dan Wilson-Fey to come in to answer questions. Scott emailed Dan with questions about D&O insurance on Oct. 10, 2017; Dan wrote back with information about the annual conference agent's name and contact information. Dan said that since we are incorporated separately, we must get a policy that is separate from the annual conference, although we are welcome to use the same carrier (AmVenture) as the AC, or we can reach out to a different insurance agency. Sandy is willing to follow up with AmVenture, and will also ask Church Mutual for their rates, so that we can do a comparison.

Brochures: We have new, glossy, up-to-date brochures! Thanks to Ric and Laura. A digital version is available for download on the webpage.

Bishop's Crossover Year: There is a meeting in April in Des Moines, WA. Erin, Becca, and Ric will be there.

Annual Meeting: We were excited about the turn-out! There were some rough edges; Laura has learned to be more assertive for next year (assume that no one else is doing anything!). We liked the

incentive of offering the “free grant.” We think it’s important to continue to emphasize the fruitfulness aspect of our work. Becca created a video for the meeting but couldn’t get it to work. Ric is willing to help her with it so that we can put it on our webpage. We’d like to perhaps have the hosting church provide the lunch (as we used to do), with us providing a stipend.

Meeting schedule: Becca will not be here in May so she will ask Ric to lead that meeting. We will skip the June meeting, due to annual conference. We will also skip the August meeting. Laura will make this schedule very clear on the webpage. Becca will also prepare an email to go out to churches in April about our schedule for the rest of the year, since it impacts application deadlines.

REPORTS

Investment Committee: Sherrie came to give Greg’s report. Things are going a bit better in the financial world. Next month the committee will meet for a full hour. Norm will also present some information about some other investments. Norm is helping the committee review our investment strategies.

District Superintendent: Erin says she remains incredibly proud of the work we are doing. We often provide for the initial work that enables the ministry of the Innovation/Vitality Team. Our money has been “seeding new life.” Example: Erin is seeing potential moving forward at Beaverton FUMC (we funded a grant there last year). Erin reports that a consultant is working in the Greater Northwest Area to help light the way toward future vitality, especially in terms of greater collaboration. Erin also lifted up the “land and house coalition” that is being led by Portsmouth Union and Leaven—we had a significant role in seeding that dream!

Grants/Loans Committee: Donna reported that we had no loan applications. She asked the Board to affirm the Oak Grove UMC’s request to use their grant money for a slightly different project with Urban High School. Norm moved that we affirm Oak Grove UMC’s new project, and that a letter be sent. Seconded.

Passed.

Donna moved, on behalf of the committee, to make an official policy that we will not accept grant or loan applications at the February annual meeting.

Passed.

Laura will put this on the webpage, and Donna will work on updating the policies.

The committee is looking at whether or not it would be possible to increase the \$2000 limit of the Dennis fund.

David suggested that the grants committee bring motions about the amount of a grant, but let the Board itself decide which fund from which the grant would be drawn. If the committee has a preference about the fund, they can bring it as a suggestion rather than part of the motion.

Nominations: The person we asked to fill the last slot has accepted a different leadership opportunity. Becca asked us to send her recommendations for a clergy person. Then Ric, Becca, Laura, and Erin will confer about inviting a person.

Bookkeeper: David found an old spreadsheet that Bruce Rogers (David's predecessor) had worked up. David reconstructed some figures outlining the original corpus of our major funds. Note: David had to make some unverified assumptions in order to do this. David quickly summarized his monthly financial reports.

Treasurer: No report in Scott's absence. We also noted that we do not have access to the four checks Scott was supposed to bring today. Becca will follow up on getting blank checks that Laura (who is not a signer) could keep for situations like this. David will check with Wells Fargo to see about the possibility of automatic deposit, especially for the two monthly salary checks.

NEW BUSINESS

Parsonage Inspections: Norm believes this should be under the auspices of the Church Location & Building Committee. Erin thinks it might be helpful to have some CL&B folks together with some CDCES folks form a task force, studying the state of parsonages on the district. A significant amount of our resources have gone to parsonages in the last several years. Norm offered that he is willing to get something going; he has talked with Christy Dirren (on CL&B), who is interested in working with Norm on this project. Larry Burbidge is the chair of CL&B, and should be kept in the loop.

Next Meeting: April 9, 12:00 noon, at **Portland First UMC, Room 204 (Investment Committee to meet at 11:00am in Room 204; Grants/Loans to meet at 11:30am at the Conference Center—Todd Bartlett's office)**

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Jaquith Bartlett
CDCES Administrative Assistant/Secretary