

**CUMC/WESLEY FOUNDATION  
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES**

**January 21, 2019**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Members Present:** Brenda Allen, Joe Doolittle, Adam Faeth, Jen Hibben, Gerry Kennedy, David Orth, Jodie Risdal, Ryan Risdal, Jill Sanders, Mary Wickham

**Members Absent:** Doug Bates

**Congregation Present:** Ken Kruempel

**Call to Order**

Chair Orth called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. and Kennedy provided the opening prayer.

Chair Orth added an item to the agenda to choose a vice chair.

**Introductions**

Chair Orth asked the council members to introduce themselves and confirm their contact information.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Cellphone</b>	<b>Email</b>
Brenda Allen	515-441-0408	bsallen@iastate.edu
Doug Bates		dougbates@yahoo.com
Joe Doolittle	515-835-0886	joefreddoo@gmail.com
Adam Faeth	515-231-9674	adam.faeth@gmail.com
Jen Hibben	515-978-1775?	jen@cwames.org
Gerry Kennedy	515-231-0569	dandygreenelk@gmail.com
David Orth	515-451-6033	orth@mchsi.com
Jodie Risdal	515-450-3447	risdal07@gmail.com
Ryan Risdal	515-338-0772	risdal07@gmail.com
Jill Sanders	319-361-0737	jill@cwames.org
Mary Wickham	309-550-2594	wickhammary1@gmail.com

Ken Kruempel asked how the council would advise other committees to advertise meetings to the congregation. Sanders said that the meetings are posted on the church calendar. Chair Orth said that all church meetings are open to everyone, and that there would only be portions of meetings where those who were not on the committee would be asked to step out, such as during confidential discussions in Staff Parish meetings.

**Nominations for Vice Chair**

Chair Orth said that with the new church structure, there is no longer a nominations committee, and each committee is responsible for their nominations. He said that Katherine Kerns declined

to serve as vice chair and asked for any nominations for vice chair. Chair Orth said that vice chair is a backup to the chair and is nominated from the congregation rather than from another committee. He clarified that there is no expectation established that the vice chair would automatically become the chair. Chair Orth asked for any suggestions to be emailed to him.

### **Church Council Definition/Guidelines**

Chair Orth asked for any discussion on the definition of the council from the agenda:

(from the new Church Structure document): The Church Council will be composed of the Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor/Campus Pastor; a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary; Chair and Vice Chair/Lay Leader of both the Ministries Council and the Administrative Council, Chair of the Endowment Board, Chair of the Wesley Foundation, and the Lay Members to Annual Conference. This group will meet quarterly and may meet additionally on an “as-needed” basis. Its focus will be leadership development and strategic planning. The Church Council will serve as the administrative agency of the Charge Conference and in that capacity can make decisions when a proposal impacts both the Administrative and Ministries Councils on the application of a proposal. This group has authority to approve requests for use of available funding from the Enduring Gifts General/Undesignated Fund.

Chair Orth presented the guidelines for the council:

- Honesty
- Everyone has a voice
- “Rumble” mentality – Pastor Jill
- Working committee – tasks/subcommittee meetings outside of the quarterly meetings to be expected

Sanders described the “Rumble” mentality. She read *Dare to Lead* by Brené Brown while on vacation a couple of weeks ago. Sanders said that in the author’s organization, it was common to say something like, “we need to rumble about our budget,” or “we need to rumble about this decision.” For example, the author was setting deadlines that were impossibly short for her team. Her team asked her if they could rumble about the deadlines she was setting.

Brown describes vulnerability as the ability to stay at the table and stay engaged through disagreement. She said that sometimes the team will reach a point as far as they can go and need a break or a time out. Brown also described a “square squad,” an exercise where you take a one-inch square piece of paper and write down all of the people whose opinion of you really matters. She wrote that if you care what everyone thinks, you won’t be able to make decisions, but if you don’t care what anyone thinks, you don’t have the vulnerability to be innovative. She also suggests letting the square squad know how much they matter to you.

Chair Orth described the expectations for working in subcommittees. He said that the council only has four meetings scheduled, with the next meeting in April. At the April meeting, he expects the council to start forming and engaging in subcommittees.

Sanders asked if April was soon enough after the February meeting of the General Conference to get started. Chair Orth said that four meetings was the minimum, and he might schedule a meeting earlier if the council was ready to meet.

### **Consideration of Recommendations from Finance Committee to Church Council**

Finance committee made two recommendations to Church Council:

1. to approve suspending monthly payments of apportionments to the Iowa Annual Conference until further discussion in July
2. to accept the responsibility to consider/plan for the fiscal future of Collegiate/Wesley beyond 2019

Sanders said that apportionments pay for the shared ministries that the church does together. Not just in Iowa, but at the national level, and throughout the global United Methodist Church. The church is not required to pay them monthly, and there are some churches that pay all at the beginning of the year, and that helps the conference with cashflow.

Chair Orth said the church has as long history of paying 100% of their apportionments. The church has been using an automatic fund transfer to pay monthly. Chair Orth said the wording of the suggestion from the Finance Committee was specific to suspend automatic payments, and it was not a unanimous decision.

Jodie Risdal asked what the justification was for the decision in Finance Committee. Chair Orth said that the Finance Committee does not have a budget approved yet. Up until two years ago, the church had a balanced budget. Last year, for the first time in recent history, finance committee approved a stretch budget with the understanding that it would take up to \$189,000 from reserves to pay for 2018. Chair Orth said final numbers for 2018 are not in yet, but that the church spent at least \$140,000 of that reserve in 2018.

Wickham asked if the revenue has gone down or if costs have gone up. Kennedy said that costs have been very similar to previous years. Jen said that funding from the conference has gone down significantly, and the Iowa Annual Conference is working to completely defund Wesley foundations in 2020. Sanders said that the 2018 church budget cut the shared expenses with Wesley Foundation in half, from \$120k to 60k in anticipation that the funding from the conference would disappear.

Chair Orth said there is a budget subcommittee meeting tomorrow that was tasked with coming up with a 2019 budget. Wickham said she did not feel was a contentious issue to suspend automatic payments. Kennedy said that to some people, CUMC/WF had been a part of the Rainbow Covenant group since it was created, and it was part of the DNA of CUMC/WF to pay apportionments. He said that connectionism is important to the congregation.

Kennedy said that there has been a perfect storm of little things that have combined to have a bigger impact on the budget this year. Wickham suggested that chunk charts have been useful in the past to see how budget items interact over time.

**A motion was made (Ryan Risdal) and seconded (Wickham) to approve the decision of Finance Committee to suspend monthly automatic payments of apportionments to the Iowa Annual Conference until further discussion by Finance committee in July.**

Chair Orth clarified that the discussion in July would take place in Finance Committee.

**Motion carried.**

Chair Orth said he would let Griffith and chair of Finance Committee know about the decision. He asked about the second suggestion to consider a plan for the fiscal future of CUMC/WF beyond 2019.

**A motion was made (Doolittle) and seconded (Ryan Risdal) to accept the responsibility to consider and plan for the fiscal future of Collegiate/Wesley beyond 2019. Motion carried.**

### **Communication to the Congregation**

Chair Orth asked for ideas how to craft a communication to the church about the decision to suspend automatic apportionments. Sanders said there is no rule that apportionments need to be paid monthly. They are supposed to be paid by the end of the year.

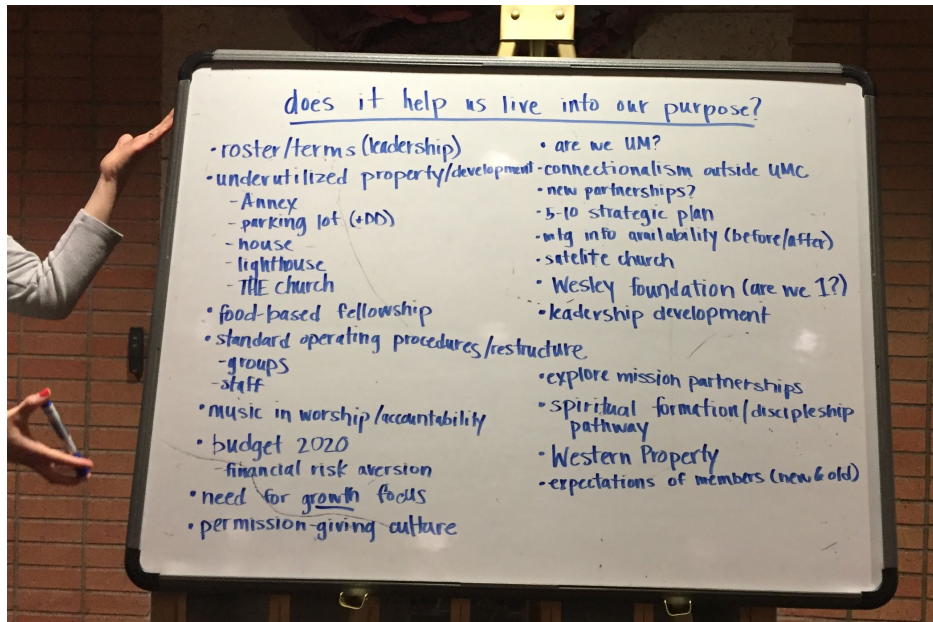
Allen suggested including that Finance Committee has a goal to pay apportionments in full. Doolittle and Wickham volunteered to help with the communication. Chair Orth asked if it should be part of the regular Friday email. The council's consensus was that it should be part of the next two Friday emails. Ryan Risdal asked who the contact for questions would be. Chair Orth suggested that he and the chair of Finance Committee would be the contacts. Sanders volunteered to be a contact too.

Chair Orth reminded the council that one of the things that will happen during the end of the meeting is to summarize what happened. Wickham suggested a one-page summary.

### **Brainstorming Ideas**

Chair Orth asked for ideas about what subjects the council should discuss in future meetings. The goal would be to examine these things that the church has or does with the question, "does it help us live into our purpose?"

The council brainstormed the following topics:



- Roster/Terms (leadership)
- Underutilized property / development
  - House
  - Parking lot
  - Annex
  - Lighthouse
  - The church
- Food-based fellowship
- All of the things that reaching and receiving has been doing
  - Thanksgiving dinner
  - Easter breakfast
- Standard Operating Procedures for all groups and staff positions
- Music in worship/accountability
  - The church has a very talented 83-year old, but what can we do in the future?
  - Communication between music groups and worship leadership
  - Developing others (joining the choir, etc.)
- Need for growth focus
  - Financial risk aversion / willingness to go into debt (Budget 2020 and beyond)
  - New ways to fund ministry
- Permission-giving culture (to create their own groups)
  - To move away from staff-driven ministry
- Do we fit in the United Methodist church?
- Conventionalism outside UMC
  - How do we connect with churches like us?
  - How do we partner with other UMC churches in this town?
- 5–10 year strategic plan
- Meeting info availability (before/after)
- Do we need to start a satellite church in 5 years?

- Wesley Foundation (are we 1?)
- Leadership Development
- Campus ministry – join with other churches in Ames
- Explore our mission partnerships
- Spiritual Formation attitude (discipleship pathways)
  - Spiritual formation vs. consumers of religious goods and services.
- Representatives on committees from other committees:
  - Chair Orth gave this item to Doolittle to take to Administrative Council
- Western property committee
- Expectation of members (does that differ from current to new?)
- Development of property (what do we need in the future?)

After the meeting, the following items were added to the list of topics in an email from David Orth on January 24, 2019:

- Celebrate Frank Amos' service as Lay Leader
- Worship Service times and timing
- Forum Class
- Security/Emergency plans

**Closing**

Hibben provided the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Faeth, Secretary

Next meeting: April 15, 2019