**CUMC/WESLEY FOUNDATION**

**CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES**

**October 21, 2019**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Members Present:** Brenda Allen, Denny Coon, Adam Faeth, Jen Hibben, Jane Jacobson, Jason Janssen, Gerry Kennedy, David Orth, Dean Phillips, Jodi Risdal, Steve Williams

**Members Absent:** Mary Wickham

**Staff Present:** Lindsay Drake

**Congregation Present**: Tim Gossett, Darra Johnson, Ken Kruempel

**Call to Order**

Chair Orth called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and provided an opening devotion.

Chair Orth introduced the new people who were present. He said that Jacobson went to the Church of Resurrection leadership development training and agreed to serve as a Lay Member to the Annual Conference. She will replace Doug Bates, who moved away. Williams is the new chair of Wesley Foundation. Drake was invited to talk about nominations, and Gossett will be talking about the Byrne endowment grants. Phillips said that Wickham asked him to attend to represent Endowment Board.

**Byrne Endowment Grant Requests**

Gossett said the Byrne fund had a total available amount of $54,122 for 2019 grants. The Byrne agreement specified that international missions should receive two-thirds of the distributions, and missions sponsored by CUMC/WF should receive one-third. Gossett said that this year, the Byrne team determined that all of the requests qualified as international missions. He said that the Byrne team approved these requests and then Sending to Serve approved them. The process now required Church Council to vote on a final approval.

Phillips said his interpretation of the Byrne agreement was that one-third would be for domestic missions, and two-thirds for international missions. This year all the grants were categorized as international. Gossett said that the Byrne Team discussed the language in the Byrne agreement extensively. They started with the interpretation that it had to split one-third and two-thirds, but in further discussions they thought that two-thirds must be to international missions, but there was no minimum for domestic grants, so they could allocate up to 100% for international missions.

Chair Orth said that the motion had come up through Sending to Serve and called for a vote.

**A motion was made from Sending to Serve to approve the 2019 Bryne endowment grant distributions recommended by the Byrne team. Motion carried.**

**2020 Nominations**

Chair Orth said new structure was put into place on January 1st, and the idea was that the groups within the church would nominate new members to their respective clusters and committees. However, with everything going on in the Church, there was not a lot of discussion of this process.

Pastor Coon said that the suggestion was that Council on Ministries would make recommendations to the senior pastor, and the chairs of Finance, SPRC, and Properties and Trustees, and Ad Council would also make nominations. Kruempel asked why there would not be a nominations committee. Allen said that the Council on Ministries discussed how to fit a nominations process into the new structure and saw the Church Council as the nominating body. Drake said that the hope was that Administrative Council might do the same thing, and then both could bring the nominations before Church Council to make sure there were not conflicts with people being nominated to serve on multiple committees.

Kennedy said he did meet with the chairs of Finance Committee, Staff Parish Relations Committee, and Properties and Trustees. He asked the chairs to create a roster of who is still on the committee and when their terms mature. Kennedy said that since that meeting, two of the chairs stepped down, but he did get the information. They are still looking at how to fill all of these holes for next year.

Drake said she thought that the Council on Ministries, Administrative Council, and Church Council needed to do the work to get these positions filled, but then it also needed to revisit the topic to discuss the process for nominating people. Allen said Council on Ministries was looking at how to help people grow into the position of chair. They are looking at asking people if they would be willing to serve on the committee for a year or two and then assume the chair position.

Jacobson said it was important to have the defined terms so that people understood the commitment they were making to serve a three-year term or take over the remaining term for someone else. Chair Orth said that in the past, the church did not have people take over a term for someone who left, they started over with a three-year term. However, then the classes of people serving terms ending on the same year became unbalanced, instead of the same number of seats rotating off the committee each year.

Chair Orth suggested that maybe Administrative Council and Council on Ministries could just ask people to serve. He asked if it was really an issue if someone ended up on both an administrative committee and a ministry cluster. Drake said that there currently is not a lot of staff overlap between the group working on nominations within Council of Ministries and working on the nominations within Administrative Council. Drake suggested that maybe the senior pastor and director of adult discipleship might get together with the chairs of all the clusters and committees to go over potential nominations to make sure there weren’t any problems between committees with nominations.

Allen and Drake went over the open spots in the clusters under the Council of Ministries and the potential nominees they were thinking about asking to fill those roles. Allen asked if there were any concerns about the nominations proposed. Hearing no objections, Allen said that she would contact the cluster chairs and ask them to make the requests to the nominees because they have the most experience with what the cluster does.

Chair Orth asked which openings within the Council of Ministries did not have nominations yet. Allen said that Congregational Care was the only hole. Drake said they were planning to ask people to co-chair that cluster. Chair Orth asked if those people would officially be co-chairs, or if one would be chair and another vice-chair. For example, would both be asked to attend Council of Ministries meetings. Drake suggested that both might attend meetings.

Kennedy asked for help and suggestions in filling the three chair positions for Administrative Council, Properties and Trustees, and Finance Committee. He said that the few people he thought of to chair the Administrative Council already turned it down. Kruempel said that at the trustees meeting, it sounded like a number of members felt like they had fulfilled their terms and there might be many open spots for 2020.

Jansen offered to continue as chair of Finance Committee next year if there were no objections. The council agreed.

Drake suggested that at the meeting in November, the Administrative Council could come prepared with nominations and she could help them to work through filling the open spots. Chair Orth said that the Administrative Council meeting would be after charge conference. He asked the council if they would have any issues with presenting a leadership roster with open spots. Pastor Coon said that he would be comfortable with that.

Chair Orth asked the council to review the nominations for lay members to annual conference, and the council accepted the nominations. Drake also asked about nominating alternates. Jacobson said that Barbra Munson went as an alternate last year. Drake said that Munson and Mike King had seemed agreeable to serving as alternates before.

**2020 Budget**

Chair Orth said the 2020 Budget Subcommittee came up with a proposed plan for the 2020 budget. Janssen said the subcommittee used a five-year average of actual expenses within each cluster or committee. There were also cuts of $200,000 from Staff Parish Relations Committee and Properties and Trustees. Jansen said that this budget assumed that income would remain the same as 2019.

Kruempel asked why Church Council was reviewing this proposal when there was an extra Finance Committee tomorrow to review the 2020 budget. Jansen said that the Finance Committee asked Church Council for help, and Church Council formed the subcommittee, so it is coming up through the Church Council, then it would be presented at the Finance Committee meeting tomorrow.

Chair Orth said that the budget subcommittee spent a lot of time looking at the expenses side of the budget, which did not leave time to look at what might help with raising income. He said that the clusters and committees all have Enduring Gifts buckets that they can tap into. Chair Orth said that Church Council also has Enduring Gifts money available. Phillips said that the Endowment fund had $54,000 available in 2019, and $30,000 was not distributed because there were not enough grant requests.

Pastor Coon said that the church is going through a transition year, and there are decisions that need to be made in a transition year that do not have to be made normally.

Chair Orth said he did not want the clusters and committees to stop planning programming because the money was not in the budget. He said there are ways to find the money for programming through Enduring Gifts, Byrne and Endowment Grants, and other sources.

Chair Orth said that the Church Council can send the budget to Finance Committee, can decide not to send it to Finance Committee, or can say council looked at it and pass it along. Jacobson said she would prefer to say that this is not a recommendation, but that the council had been informed.

Kennedy said that if there is a ministry that needs more money, the lay leaders can help that ministry find it so that they can do what is important.

Chair Orth said that Jacobson suggested passing the budget from the subcommittee to the Finance Committee with the understanding that it was not a recommendation by the council.

**A motion was made (Jodi Risdal) and seconded (Kennedy) to pass the proposed budget from the budget subcommittee onto Finance Committee, with an understanding of the difficulty of the task. Motion Passed. Williams and Coon abstained.**

Williams clarified that he saw it as a conflict of interest to vote on items related to pastoral salary. Pastor Coon said he has never voted on church councils because he was appointee of the annual conference. Williams said that rule recently changed to allow pastors to vote.

**Closed Session: SPRC Update**

The Church Council received an update from SPRC.

**Next Steps**

Chair Orth said there are strategic decisions that need to be made related to apportionments, developing a strategic plan, and an overall property plan. He said the quarterly meetings have not been enough to go over these topics. On top of that, there were unexpected things that happened in 2019 that needed attention.

Chair Orth said the topics above need input from the congregation, but it needed to be framed in a way that can make progress. The council formed the budget subcommittee, and they rightly wanted to get input from the congregation. However, he felt that conversation got off track and focused more on cutting expenses rather than ways to increase revenue.

Kennedy said he thought the first step was to develop a strategic plan because it would be important to know what the church wanted to do to evaluate what sort of property we need and what expansions we might plan in the future. Jacobson said she thought the first step was was to increase the frequency of meetings. Chair Orth said that he would send out a poll to find a meeting time in November or December.

Phillips asked when the church might have an idea of the estimate for revenue in 2020. Chair Orth said that this year, Generosity Sunday would kick off the generosity campaign, and people would be asked to return their Estimate of Giving cards on the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

Chair Orth thanked the members of the council for their commitment.

**Adjourn**

Pastor Coon provided the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Faeth, Secretary