

WESLEY FOUNDATION BOARD MEETING – FEBRUARY 26, 2023

Attendance: Mike King, Nan Smith, Brian Brand (chair), Jill Brand, Jason Janssen (treasurer), Darin Johnson, Trish Johnson, Mitch Hoyer, John Jacobson, Mary Bellon (senior pastor), Lewis Cox (campus minister)

Brian Brand called the meeting to order at 11:15.

Old Business:

- Bishop's Installation (Feb. 19) – Lewis Cox reported that representatives of other Wesley Foundations and UMC affiliated student centers met prior to the Installation. They held a short meeting with Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai to introduce themselves and their ministries. The group plans to have more communication and coordination in the future.
- January minutes – Mitch Hoyer moved to approve as presented. Mike King seconded. Approved without dissent.
- Financial reports – Jason Janssen reported on both December and January budgets.
 - December - The proceeds from the sale of the Drake Wesley Foundation were divided between the remaining campus ministries in Iowa. This is a one-time contribution of \$9,070.50 from the Iowa Annual Conference. The funds were attributed differently in previous reports. The report for December now reflects the adjustments made in light of the contribution.
 - January – Income and expenses are in line with budget projects. There is an anticipated deficit of \$25,200 at the end of 2023.
 - John Jacobson moved to approve both financial reports. King seconded. Motion approved unanimously.
- Spring Semester Events – Cox reported that 15 students are engaged in 3 weekly small groups. He is emailing UMC preference students from a list provided by Iowa State. Although student engagement is low, this is a rebuilding season/year. He is launching a “fun” group event each month so people do not become siloed in their small groups. Cox is also planning one retreat away from campus each semester. In addition Cox is exploring the possibility of establishing a Campus Ministry circuit within the Annual Conference. He has begun conversations with other campus ministers about technological solutions that could aid outreach to high school students earlier and more often.
- Wesley Place – Brian Brand reported the closing of Wesley Place for the next year to the Church Council. The Council supported the decision.
- Budget Visioning Task Force – Brian Brand reported that a five-member task force is meeting this spring to review options for budget/financial sustainability for Collegiate Wesley in the future. Brand is the WF representative to the group. The work of this group answers the recommendation from the WF Task Force last fall to design a budget model for WF and Collegiate.

- *Action Item – a representative from the Budget Visioning Task Force will attend the March WF meeting to gather input, ideas, and concerns.*

New Business:

- Endowment Grants – Cox presented the following ideas as possible CW Endowment Grant requests.
 - Costs for the Alumni Funding Campaign
 - Costs for a High School Recruitment Campaign
 - Support for Spring / Fall one-day retreats
 - Costs for Fall Welcome events
 - Costs for refitting Nichols Chapel for small WF services
 - Costs to invest in direct text capabilities

The group discussion recruitment, Nichols Chapel, and direct texting. The ideas for the chapel include seating that could be more flexible, generating a centering space. The consensus was that this needed to be discussed with the Trustees. Money may be available through Enduring Gifts. High school recruitment suggestions included direct mailings, visits to churches, tours of the building during ISU Orientation and move-in, visibility during RAGBRAI's stop in July. Suggestions for fall activities were a dinner for students and parents during Parents Weekend and pairing current students with WF alumni in their field of study/interest. The options for direct texting include support through Planning Center or purchasing another software package. This capability could also be used by other groups within CW such as Reaching and Receiving. During the discussion it was noted that the website needs to be enhanced / upgraded. This could be part of this "tech" initiative.

King moved to submit two Endowment Grant requests. The first will focus on Direct Texting software and support to enhance the CW website. The second will focus on High School Recruitment and Fall Welcome Events. Jacobson seconded. The motion was approved without dissent.

Action Item: Darin Johnson and Jacobson volunteered to work with Lewis to generate a plan for High School Recruitment.

- Discussion of the Alumni Funding Campaign was postponed to a future meeting.
- Cox will be commissioned by the Iowa Annual Conference on Sunday morning, June 4.
- Pastor Mary reminded the Board that beginning in July Cox will be entitled to 4 weeks of vacation and a week of study leave between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024. It is the Board's responsibility to make sure Cox takes the time away.

Next Meeting: March 19 following Worship.

Cox closed the meeting with prayer at 1:15