

# University Christian Church

## Board of Stewards Meeting

March 17, 2015

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### UNAPPROVED MINUTES

#### **Stewards Present:**

Mark Alland	Eldon Irving
Phyllis Allen	Sandi Kennedy
Michelle Allred	Carol Jane Lawrence
William Butler	Gay McKeever
Carolyn Critz	Monty Phillips
Brian Gibson	Sean Strange
Heather Harris	Carol Wilkerson
Don Houk	

#### **Ex-Officio Member Present:**

Rev. Larry Thomas – Senior Minister  
Rev. Ellen Lewis – Associate Minister

A meeting of the Board of Stewards of University Christian Church was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by the Chair, Sandi Kennedy. Phyllis Allen read a prayer from a book by Joan Brown Campbell who is speaking here on May 3.

**Listening to UCC Members** – No one signed in to speak to the Board.

**Approval of Minutes** - The minutes of the February 17 board meeting were reviewed. Phyllis Allen made a motion to approve the minutes. Carolyn Critz seconded the motion. All approved.

**El Paso Mission Pilgrimage** – Cyndy Twedell introduced Errin Miller who had prepared a Power Point presentation with pictures from the pilgrimage. Pam Miller said she was grateful to the church for making the mission trip possible. Cyndy said “Hope” seemed to be the theme of the trip. A good time was had by all and it was a very productive trip with many projects being completed.

**Assignments for Calls to New Members** – Board members volunteered to call the new members.

**Report from Deacons** – Lori Gallagher was not present but Thelia Chaffin mentioned that we had purchased Sign Up Genius and had begun using the program which seems to be working well.

**Report from Elders** – Eldon Irving reported that the Elders continue to serve at the communion table each week and will also be in the Service of Darkness on Thursday, April 2. They continue their Elder Shepherding Ministry. He frequently receives prayer requests from his flock. At the next Elders meeting, the Elders will begin a study of the book *In God's Presence: Theological Reflections on Prayer* by Marjorie Suchocki.

**Finance Report** – Arthur Townsend reported that the Finance Committee did not meet in March. Business was conducted via email. Michelle is working with auditors this week and next. Any questions should be directed to Michelle. A preliminary report is as follows:

**Consolidated Balance Sheet** – As of February 2015 operating cash balance is positive and still up comparatively to February 2014 by \$257K. UCC Equity is also positive at \$470K which is higher than last year by \$316K.

Comparative cash balances as of February 28, 2015 are summarized as follows:

	2/28/2015	2/28/2014	1/31/2015	12/31/2014 (Unaudited)
Operating	\$658,000	\$401,000	\$637,000	\$433,000
Restricted	599,000	563,000	593,000	779,000
Capital	433,000	294,000	390,000	427,000
Endowment	28,000	48,000	27,000	74,000
Consolidated	\$1,718,000	\$1,306,000	\$1,647,000	\$1,713,000

**Unified Budget Report** - Pledges, Contributions & Offering (PCO Income) are ahead of budget by \$12K. Net overall income is \$46K positive variance to budget.

**Capital Budget Report** – Replacement computers and final payment for website mobile integration were amongst the purchases made this month from our Capital Fund. Income available for capital projects is \$415K.

**\*Budget Amendments** - One budget amendment this month:

\$300 – Organist for Minister's Week transfer from the Senior Minister Advised Fund.

No net impact to budget.

**Senior Minister Report –**

- Scott and Heather Wheatley had their baby. A number of folks are in hospice care. Ken Raessler 's memorial service will be this Saturday.
- TCU police have been removing locks even though contract states otherwise.
- In staff meeting they discussed a July sabbatical from meetings and Sunday School. Members have expressed that it has been well received in the past. No objections from the Board so the Sunday School will not have classes in July. Incoming Board Chair, Monty Phillips will determine whether the Board meets in July. Most Administrative Committees will also elect not to have meetings during July.
- Rev. Lewis compiled yearbook information recently. Our worship attendance has declined over the last few years. We don't inflate numbers. We have had 626 average attendance which is down 75 from last year. Brian Gibson mentioned the correlation to pledging units vs. average attendance which may partly be attributed to attendance from The Search since it is no longer operational. This is cultural and generational not due to the staff or senior minister. Brian Gibson stated that one-third of the members are 65 or over. Attendance has probably declined 10% per year over the last few years.
- Depending on Scott's research regarding a third worship service, he may want to look at bringing struggling congregations into our fold.
- This year we are doing three services for Easter: 6:45 sunrise service; 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
- Early registration for General Assembly is April 1. If Board members want to go, they should let Board Chair, Sandi Kennedy, know so we can designate them as voting delegates.

**Administrative Committee Members and Chairs –** Carol Jane Lawrence gave update. Three chairs are in place but they need to get members of the committees.

**Proposed Church Program Trips –** Ellen Lewis presented a list of the various trips planned in response to a request from last year that the board be informed about any trips that are scheduled to avoid multiple trips around the same time.

June 9-12, 2015	Youth-Chi Rho	Oklahoma City, OK
June 27-July 4, 2015	Youth – CYF	Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries, Los Fresnos, TX
July 9-20, 2015	Music – Youth Handbell	England
July 26-August 2, 2015	Outreach	Nicaragua
January 16-25, 2016	Outreach	Chile
March, 2016 (Spring Break)	Outreach	Spring mission pilgrimage – domestic
June, 2017	Music – Youth Handbell	Kansas City, Columbia, St. Louis, MO

The trip to France is coming up in May of this year. The Church & the Arts Committee will wait until after this trip to get feedback before scheduling another trip.

Cyndy Twedell mentioned additional events to be added to the calendar on this month's Agenda.

Rev. Thomas mentioned that we will only have a Thursday service during Holy Week this year. Seven Elders are needed. Gay McKeever and Carol Jane Lawrence volunteered to be an Elder for this service.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned in prayer by Rev. Thomas at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Strange  
Board Secretary

Thelia Chaffin  
Assistant to Senior Minister