**Minutes of First Presbyterian Church of Evanston Board of Trustees**

**February 20th, 2018**

**Draft**

**Attendance**: Bill Bolsen, Bob Bastian, Clark Robinson, Carol Ivy, Catherine Latturner, Eleanor Ehresman, Rob Lepley, Jide-Nzelibe, Maude Comeau, Ray Hylton, Justin Bennett, Peter Steffen and Melody Henrie

I **Opening Prayer**: 7:05pm – Bill Bolsen

II **Minutes**: Missing attendee entries, (Carol Ivy and Maude Comeau missed the joint meeting and Bill Bolsen missed the last regular meeting), and format structure criticism were noted. The minutes were approved.

III **Agenda Corrections and Additions**: Peter Steffen added update for the Church bus, Bob Bastian added items for The Great Commission and Catherine Latturner added an item pertaining to Pilgrimage.

IV **Financial Reports**:

**Church**: Clark Robinson reported that while the audit is not quite done it appears that we will end up with about a $18,600 carry over.

Concerning the Retirement Plan – Actuarial Valuation Clark Robinson and Bill Bolsen summarized the handout explaining that the old plan is frozen and that the existing plan, while still underfunded, is roughly 50% less underfunded than last year.

**TCC**: Bob Bastian reiterated that TCC did well in 2017 ending with a $6,000 carry over. Bob added later that a new candidate for TCC is being sought.

**Building**: Clark Robinson reported that they will come in with around a $300,000 carry over.

V **Fund Raising**:

**Stewardship Results**: Melody Henrie reported no changes since last month.

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**Special Offerings**: Bill Bolsen motioned to approve the Deacon’s special offering on Easter. Rob Lepley seconded and it was passed. Bill Bolsen motioned to approve a One Great Hour of Sharing offering during Lent. Eleanor Ehresman seconded and it was passed.

**Fundraising:** Rob Lepley motioned that the Youth Group be allowed to have a fundraiser to help cover expenses associated with summer trips. Catherine Latturner seconded and it was passed.

**Souvenirs (150th):** Pastor Ray discussed the possibility of FPCE commissioning artist Georges Khoury, from Bethlehem and Paris, to:

1. Create a special Communion Table Cross commemorating our 150th.
2. Create seasonal drapings for the Communion Table utilizing a pyramid image in all but changing each for specific seasons, (Advent, Lent, etc.).
3. Taking bricks and superimposing on them images from existing artwork in the Church, (e.g.: stained glass images, wood carvings, etc.). These would commemorate the 150th. Sales potential.

The trustees decided to table a vote on any of these suggestions until firm cost estimates could be obtained. Pastor Ray will follow up.

VI **Old Business**: Bob Bastian reported no changes to the 2018 budget at this time. No other old business was brought up at this juncture.

VII **Ministry Reports:**

**Building**: Clark Robinson reported that the Building Committee is working on a draft of a revised usage policy. Other projects seem to be on track. Peter handed out a report on FPCE transportation needs including quotes for replacement vehicles. Questions pertaining to van sizes versus stability as well as storage/rust issues were raised. Peter will follow up for the next meeting.

**Finance and Endowment**: Bob Bastian said that there was nothing new to add that had not already been covered.

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VIII **New Business**:

**Cross/Paraments**: Discussed in “Souvenirs”, above.

**Counting**: Bill Bolsen reminded everyone, especially Peter, to check their counting assignments and arrange for replacements in advance.

**Policies**: Kristen Mueller, Bev Bolsen, Richard Bell, and Susan Wilkens are reviewing and revising policies currently.

**Approve Housing Allowance**: Approved at last meeting. Peter Steffen

to send all pastors and other financial minded staff and trustees

an updated IRS memorandum concerning how housing allowances

should be addressed in tax filings.

**Jazz Vespers**: Bob Bastian motioned to approve the jazz vespers

concert on 3/11 with ticket sales going to charity. Jide seconded and

it was passed.

**Pilgrimage:** Catherine Latturner motioned to approve a 3/11, 2:00pm

to4**:**00 pm fund raiser with proceeds going to Pilgrimage. Rob Lepley

seconded and it was passed.

**Great Commission:** Bob Bastian motioned to approve the new

members and/or job descriptions to the Great Commission ministry.

It was tabled because Session needs to approve. Bob will follow up.

Bob also enquired whether or not the Great Commission was allowed

to use all the $25,000+ formulated distribution this year or if they

would be restricted to $15,000. While the consensus was that they

have up to the formulated $25,000+ Clark Robinson will check the resolution passed last fall and report back next meeting.

IX **Closing Prayer**: 8:30pm. – Maude Comeau

Respectfully Submitted:

Eleanor Ehresman Peter Steffen

Secretary Assoc. Secretary