Countryside Church UU
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2018

President Christine Organ called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Kristin shared the opening reading (from “My Cherokee Feast of Days”) and board members recited the BOT covenant.

Attendance:
Christine Organ
George Motto
duRee Bryant
Karen Epps
Kristin Huston
Marcus White
Kathryn Hillyer
Joy Simon
Maryanne O’Dowd
Jeanie Michalec

Absent:
Rev. Hilary Krivchenia (on leave)

Consent Agenda:
1. July BOT Meeting Minutes
2. July Financials
3. August Finance Meeting Minutes
   In the July Minutes duRee’s name was spelled incorrectly and Maryanne was not listed as absent.
   There was a discussion about Reverend Hilary’s time off during the summer and sabbaticals. She is to take sabbatical every seven years, but hasn’t yet.
   Kristin moved to accept the consent agenda, (as amended) George seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Updates from Board Committees:
   Executive Team:
   The Executive Team discussed Ingathering and the mortgage pay down, and a little about the North Property.

   Ministry Council Updates:
   duRee reported the committee chairs and ministry coordinators will be meeting August 26 after church.

Finance:
Marcus shared what the end of June 2017 P&L statement would have looked like if we hadn’t fulfilled the reinstatement list. There would have been a $35,500 surplus, afterward filling the reinstatement list there was still $6,700 left.

Foundations/Operations:
Kristin has not heard back from Faith in Place. She will email them a reminder that we are waiting for contact. The BOT feels it’s important to let Jeff Phillips know that we are waiting for Faith in Place to do an energy audit and that the board thinks it may be a priority to do the exterior lights first. Faith in Place works with churches in areas of sustainability. They are one of the partners to whom we contribute.

Personnel:
Joy reported that Personnel is waiting for Hilary’s return.

Special Task Forces/Teams:
Governance Process/Policies:
No report. The manual is online now.

Safety:
No report. Jeanie and Karen will be working on this.

Other:
The North Property team will be meeting August 23, discussing things that arose at the Town Hall meetings. They will also serve as liaison with the tenants.

Jeanie talked with Juli Cicarelli about some of her ideas that fall under Kinship. She (Jeanie) is taking over Circle Suppers. She is emailing a new member (Judith Holmes) about ideas for this year.

The DLRE search committee is going to go through Beyond Categorical Thinking training, which is through the UUA. This is a way for us to better understand marginalized groups in our faith and to be transparent about who we are, which is a very white community here at CCUU. This is a workplace training as opposed to Beloved Conversations, which is a personal journey.

Ongoing Business:
1. **Board-coordinated potluck – Oct. 7**
   This is the kick-off for the congregation-wide mortgage refinancing/paydown campaign. Half of the BOT will be there for set up and half for cleanup. Christine is looking for ideas to get people excited about the mortgage.

2. **Mortgage refinancing/paydown campaign**
   Joy, George, Maryanne, duRee, Marcus, and Greg Blus have been asked to make personal calls to members who are among the top donors. Christine also reached out to members of the 20-30’s group. We’ll make calls to the top donors as soon as possible so we have buy-in before October 7. That will give us a starting pool for the kickoff on October 7. Christine will put the names in a Google
Doc and the team will sign up to call people they have a relationship with to make the calls more personal. Maryanne suggested if someone is very enthusiastic about the project once they’re called maybe they can also get involved in championing the project. duRee pointed out that even if we don’t meet our goal we’ll be ahead.

Christine developed a draft list of talking points and asked for feedback. The consultant is available at the end of August for a 2 1/2 hour meeting.

Karen suggested having people do a visual for donations to show how much we’ve collected for the mortgage. It could be bricks, quarters, something that reflects our values.

From now to early September we reach out to the top 25 and think of ways to make it fun. In the September Focus Christine will discuss the mortgage and how we are looking at some ideas. There will be detailed information in the October Focus and letters will go out to everyone. In November there will be thank you letters. Maryanne suggested having a Q&A in October, but there are some calendar conflicts. We could do it October 7.

The 25th anniversary celebration will be December 2. Christine will let Laurie know.

Christine said that the BOT voted for this and we should continue to advocate for this in our conversations with people. duRee said as Board members we should also try to pledge as much as we can. Let Christine know how much we can pledge. Maryanne will chair the team.

3. LumaStream proposal/lighting issues
   Discusses earlier.

4. Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Congregations

   Jeanie reported that for us to join this coalition is an exciting thing. They sponsor various activities throughout the year. They have a website for people looking for churches and we could be listed. It’s $250 a year, with their fiscal year starting in September. Jeanie asked where in the budget this would come from. There is no longer a Living the Welcoming Congregation line item. Maryanne asked who would “own” this and be in charge. Jeanie volunteered to be the point person. Christine asked if there was a logo we could use. How can we use their branding, identity for our things? The fee would come out of Ministries and duRee pointed out that they seldom spend all their budget. Marcus pointed out the Ministry budget was not specifically assigned to individual things.

   Jeanie moved that we join the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Congregations, which costs $250 a year, and she will work with them and the fee will come out of Ministries. Karen seconded, the vote was unanimous in favor.

New Business:

1. Communications/Advocacy:

   Christine said we should revisit our communications policy. At this time only Hilary can speak for the church in select situations. We should think about how that can be amended or revised in this fast-moving landscape that we are in. If Hilary were to be unavailable we would then be able to have someone speak for the church. duRee said other churches probably already have policies about
this. Maryanne suggested contacting Mike Gilley’s group about what they recommend. Christine said we also need to think about how this plays out practically. When do we speak as an individual and when as a representative of the church? George suggested that other than the minister the president of the BOT should be the designated spokesperson.

Maryanne will look at the current policy, what is realistic about speaking to the media, what other groups do.
Looking Towards Next BOT Meeting September 19, 7:00 p.m.:

- Readings:
  - September – Marcus
  - October – Karen
  - November – Joy

Action Items:
- Attend Ingathering if we can, Hilary will be receiving her gift.
- Think about themes for the October 7 kickoff.

Sunday Announcements:
- August 19 – Kathi
- August 26 – George
- September 2 – Kristin
- September 9 – Jeanie
- September 16 – Christine

Closing Reading
Kristin read from the “Book of Joy,” a quote by Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Adjournment