

**Standing Committee Minutes
February 20, 2019**

Voting Attending: Kathy Richardson (Chair), Phyllis Preston (Vice Chair), Judy Murray (Co-Treasurer), Jennifer Edwards (Clerk), Patty Cameron, Mike Hyde, James Pidacks, Sheila Puffer

Voting Attending Remotely (Zoom): Rebecca Keller, Steve Forcucci, Marianne DiBlasi

Ex-Officio: Alison Streit Baron

Absent: Sue Kiewra (Co-Treasurer), Heather Janules

1. **Opening words** – Rebecca
2. **Check-in** – Mike shared information about The Haiti Playground Project (www.haitik4k.com), a service project involving Winchester middle schoolers (among others); Patty informed us that Long Haul is going to Puerto Rico with a group of Boston teachers.
3. **Pledge team update** – Rebecca reported that at 2 ½ weeks into the pledge drive, we have received 49% of goal dollars, from 34% pledges.
4. **Consent agenda** -- approved
 - a. Standing Committee minutes of January 16 from Jennifer
 - b. Executive Committee meeting February 13 from Jennifer. Approval constitutes acceptance of
 - Increasing pay of teachers and assistant to DLRE by \$1 due to new minimum wage.
 - Soliciting congregation for donations for Deb Morgan Bennett’s ordination gift
 - Note that two new policies are needed: one on snow days and one on safety – anyone want to serve on task forces to discuss and/or draft policies?
 - c. Staff reports from Heather – email of Feb. 16
 - d. Committee reports from Alison
 - e. Treasurers’ report from Judy – email of Feb. 17
5. **Hardscape financing** – see Judy’s email of Feb. 19 which included a table of recommended funds and dollar amounts, totaling \$84,106 to allocate to the hardscape project proposed by Building Committee.

3130 Donald Ellis Fund (entire balance)	\$2,749
3160 Hardscape Upgrades-Meyer Fund money voted at 2018 AM	\$60,000
3220 Dawn Kelley Bartlett Flowers Fund	\$10,107
3300 Memorial Fund (entire balance)	\$11,250
3021 Undesignated Capital Reserves - if needed	
Total	\$84,106

Judy put forward a motion “that money be allocated for project as laid out in the table in Feb. 19 email, up to that limit, for now”. Motion was moved and seconded. Discussion centered on the Dawn Kelley Bartlett Flower Fund and whether plantings etc. falls under the umbrella of flora would make it okay to use. This is an old fund which makes it hard to track down the intent of fund or the family. Judy will do some research on that. Perennials would be easier to justify – things that bloom every year, can use as alter flowers. The flower fund contains about 10 years

of accumulated disbursements, not principal (which is held by Trustees). Question was asked if there is a liaison between Building and Green Sanctuary committees to ensure materials are “green” e.g. permeable parking lot. Steve will look into it as it would be a good way to exhibit our values. Motion approved.

6. **Liaisons –**

- a. Budgeting and nominating seasons have started. This is a heads-up to start thinking about annual meeting and budget; based on their reports, committees are starting to think about their budgets. The Budget Team (Sue, Judy, Don Landing) will send out notices to committee heads; are they aware of where they are in respect to this year’s budget? Liaisons should bring the topic to their committees. One big issue is that committee members are donating a lot of their own money to cover their spending; liaisons should encourage members to submit for reimbursement.

- b. Nominations Committee will contact committee chairs to see who will stay on, or who might be interested in joining. For Standing Committee, term limits are a bit confusing when reading the by-laws but agreed that term limit is 2 consecutive 3-year terms. Kathy, Rebecca, and Steve have terms ending this year; James, Sheila, and Terry have 1 year left; Phyllis, Mike, and Patty have 2 years left.

7. **Open questions sessions**

- a. **Flags:** James shared some observations about the survey, which had about 30 responses, and the session. He sent a draft policy; Executive Committee had a couple tweaks, namely expanding who can request a flag to include task forces as well as committees, and expanding who can take down flags if threatening weather to more than just staff or committee members. Motion to approve draft policy as amended by EX was passed. Jennifer will assist James in polishing it up.

- b. **Name change:** Patty shared her observations of the session (also see her email of Feb. 18). There was a big turnout, and all but 4 people out of 29 people spoke. Patty made clear at the session that this question came out of the marketing task force about how to attract residents of surrounding communities and that no decision on a name change was being made. She was very pleased with the discussion, which focused on what does the name say or not say about us – word by word rather than whole name. What do we do next? It’s a huge and expensive endeavor to change with UUA, register with state, letterhead, signage, funds, legacy accounts, etc. But the fact that so many attended it might be worth pursuing further. Someone mentioned actions speak loud – be mindful, more intentional to include other communities e.g. in announcements, events advertising, identify outreach people in other communities; WUSYG already includes others outside Winchester, and from other faiths. The tagline “a welcoming congregation” was initially intended for LGBTQ community but could be interpreted as wider. Being more intentional is a good first step. There was a suggestion to offer another time to have open discussion again, maybe have a different theme such as how could we be more inclusive / open. Patty will get feedback from Membership Committee.

- c. **Capital campaign:** Discussion scheduled for March 10. Most pressing items on the list to be covered have been taken care of, but Building Committee has a long list of projects that don't fit their budget. Discussion may prompt other donations; discussion could focus on "what do you want to see done here? What are your dreams?" There was a suggestion to do a survey of the congregation afterward to prioritize projects. Mike will connect with Chuck Khuen to get his thoughts (who won't be able to attend); Steve will be attending from Building Committee.
8. **Meetings via Zoom** – Given the forecast of bad weather, Rebecca suggested that SC members who couldn't attend in person join the meeting via Zoom. Growth and Learning committee uses it all the time. SC agreed that in-person is preferable but good to have the option, keeping in mind there might be some confidentiality issues. Kathy suggested liaisons share with their committees as it's good to have a remote attendance for members if they are sick, traveling, or have bad weather. It may also be attractive to recruit younger members to serve on committees. Alison said WUS has a free account for 40 minute meetings, which allows for one email to log-in, which means only one meeting can be held at a time. Patty volunteered to do a comparison of different platforms. For the future, SC will need to establish a protocol for how and when to use virtual attendance at meetings.
9. **Other:** Kathy shared information about Envisioning Positive Interactions community workshop, an anti-racism workshop sponsored by the Winchester Multicultural Network on March 23rd from 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at WUS. Details can be found at www.wmcn.org. This is a no-fee workshop, but with limited openings; Kathy would like a few from SC to attend, if available.
10. **Upcoming dates**
 - a. March 2, Spaghetti dinner, 5:30 p.m.
 - b. March 10, Open question conversation on capital campaign, 11:45 a.m.
 - c. March 13, Executive Committee meeting, 7 p.m.
 - d. March 20, Standing Committee meeting, 7 p.m. Jennifer will do opening words
 - e. March 23, Anti-racism workshop, 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 - f. April 6 – Deb Morgan's ordination, 4 p.m.
11. **Gratitudes**
 - a. Mike Donegan - pre-service refreshments -- Sheila, on behalf of the choir
 - b. Maggie Russell, June Edwards– arranged rides for Linda Reck (Patty Shepard, Margo Sudbury, Maggie Russell) – Patty [*thanks also to SC member Judy Murray, one of the drivers.*]

Respectfully submitted by

Jennifer Edwards, Clerk