NORTHWEST HILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 17, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Pastor Charlie Baskin; Associate Pastor Audrey Spencer; Neill Gruver, Board Chair; Les Broomall; Ron Bruney; Harold Cline; Daniel Dietz; Brad Hoffman; Gary Johnson; Elliott Moulton ; Ken Moyer; Millie Shimfessel**

MEMBERS ABSENT: **Clyde Barre; Greg Gitcho; Joseph Hello; Jean Leonard; Carol Wratten**

RECORDING SECRETARY: **Les Broomall (Substitute)**

1. **Opening prayer**

   Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m. Opening prayer given by Charlie Baskin.

2. **Art of Neighboring**

   Charlie described a follow on the 2013 project "Explore God" where 377 churches hosted the largest spiritual conversation in Austin's history. He and Audrey attended a kickoff for pastors and staff on February 3 and the project will start with a sermon series in September followed by an Art of Neighboring public advertising launch in January 2016 and a sermon series and neighborhood group's kick-off in April. The objective of the program is to engage the believers in Greater Austin to follow Jesus saying "Love your neighbor as yourself."

3. **Approval of January 20 Board Minutes**

   Minutes had previously been sent out for review. Les moved approval and Gary seconded. Approved.

4. **Trustee Issues – Brad Hoffman**

   - The Worship Committee wants to redecorate and change the color in the Sanctuary at no cost to the church except for some time from the janitorial staff. After discussion, it was agreed that the Worship Committee could proceed in coordination with the Trustees.
   - The new water fountain in the Family Life Center has been installed and is working.
   - The doors to the equipment room on the first floor of the Sanctuary building need to be closed for the ventilation system to work properly. Staff will be reminded and a notice to "Keep Door Closed" will be posted.

5. **Finance issues – Les Broomall**

   - MFH continues their positive financial position with an increase in their bank balance of more than $12,000 for the month. The budget numbers in the Revenue Expense report are from their proposed budget which has not been approved by their Board as yet
   - The church also has an increase in the operating bank account of $4,526.61 for January, but we did not pay our full apportionments for the month. Had we done so, the result would have been a negative $8,277.50 for the month.
   - The budget numbers in the Revenue Expense report are from the proposed budget which is not funded at this time. These numbers will have to be amended in order to achieve a balanced budget for 2015.
   - The church's Operating and Money Market account at Compass Bank, all of the church's accounts at Texas Methodist Foundation and all of My Friend's House accounts at Compass Bank have been reconciled for the month of January.
   - Boy Scout Fundraiser request: Troop 3 requested permission to conduct a fundraiser through the auspices of the church. The amount would be less than $5,000. They are attempting to raise money for a new Scout trailer. Since the Troop has grown in size over the last few years, their current trailer is no longer adequate. They have a donor lined up to cover the amount needed. Troup 3 would like to do this through the church so that the donor can deduct this as a charitable contribution. The donor expects 100% of the money he

gives to go directly to the Troop. The Finance Committee approved this request since the amount was less than $5,000 and is providing the information to the Board as required by the Financial Policies and Procedures.

- Mission Resource Team Fundraiser request: The Mission Resource Team has volunteered NWHUMC as a sponsoring church for the Habitat for Humanity Methodist Build beginning in March. The financial commitment is $6,500. The Team donated $750 the end of 2014 and they have received a $250 check and a $20 cash donation following the Dan Davidson Forum presentation. That leaves $5,480 to raise. Habitat would like to get the money before the house in finished, but that is not required. NWHUMC workdays for this project are 4/4, 4/25, and 5/16. UMW will be providing lunch on 4/25 for the whole work teams. Since this fundraiser is for more than $5,000, it requires approval of the NWHUMC Board. The Finance Committee reviewed the request and is forwarding it to the Board for consideration. After discussion, the request was approved.

6. Stewardship – Les Broomall for Greg Gitcho

- A report on the pledge status as of February 16 was provided to the Board. 183 members responded with 171 member pledges totaling $822,040. 56 pledges were the same as last year, 94 increased their pledges from $406,478 by $148,120 (36.4% increase), and 29 decreased their pledges from $149,560 by $66,440 (44.4% decrease). This includes 8 members who pledged $22,920 last year and declined to pledge this year. The increase in pledges includes 22 pledges totaling $49,028 from members who did not pledge last year. Of these, 3 pledges for $4,728 came from new members. We did not receive a response from 18 members who pledged $28,157 for 2014. Twenty-eight members increased their previous pledge by a total of $58,510 in response to the appeal for additional pledges. The total pledged for 2015 is 103% of the total for last year and is the highest amount since 2009 when we needed a supplemental pledge campaign.

7. 2015 Budget Preparation Report – Les Broomall/Neill Gruver

- The Budget Committee met on February 15 and approved a budget with some changes to Administrative line items. The proposed budget funds all other requested funding except for the Benevolence part of the Apportionments where only $8,752.32 of the requested $49,461 is funded. The intent is to fund the remainder with any additional pledges received plus the Advent offering. The Board approved the proposed budget.

8. SPRC issues – no report

9. UMM update – Ken Moyer

- The golf tournament has been scheduled for May 9 with a fish fry and dessert auction afterwards. Men continue to meet weekly at 7:00 in the FLC and all men are invited every week.
- The UMM will prepare dinner for a women's evening event on March 26.

10. UMW update – Millie Shimfessel

- The UMW are completing their schedule of speakers for this year.

11. Youth Update – Elliot Moulton

- The Youth have started small groups called Squads. These are going well. They have a group for males, and a group for females. The goal is to connect with each other and share our feelings with people of the same gender. The Squads meet off of NWHUMC property.

- The Youth are working on preparing the Easter Sonrise Service skit that will presented to attendees of the Sonrise Service on Easter Sunday.
- There will be a Mid-winter retreat at Echo Valley with 11 youth from NWHUMC attending

12. Communications team update – Audrey Spencer

- A coordinator is needed for a new Church Directory and a Member Business Directory.
- The Communications Team is evaluating a new membership data base for the church. A potential funding source may be the Memorial Fund.

13. Healthy Church initiative update – Charlie Baskin

- A College Student Ministry is under consideration. A UT graduate student is interested in organizing it.
- Young Adults Ministry: Alex Werner and his fiancé Lindsey are interested in organizing one.

14. Looking ahead - Charlie Baskin & Audrey Spencer

- A 5th Sunday Fellowship is being planned for March 29.

15. Other issues:

- Ron Bruney reported on a presentation by Ideal Impact, a Christian company proposing to save money on utility expenses that can then be used for ministry. Ideal Impact proposes to do an inspection of our facilities and review our energy bills for the past two years and see what savings they could achieve. They would set a target for those savings each year and would make modifications to existing systems at their expense to achieve those savings. The church would pay them 95% of those savings up to an agreed cap each year for four years. The Board agreed to invite them to do the evaluation and present their findings.
- Ken Moyer questioned why the church did not support a request from the Montessori School to hold an event at our church in December. It appears that we do not have the facilities they require. Charlie will investigate.

16. Closing prayer by Audrey Spencer. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.