

**Sacramento United Methodist Union  
Meeting Notes - September 15, 2016  
Foothills United Methodist Church**

Present: Linda Dew Hiersoux, Cynthia Lawrence, Carol Conley, Carol Edwards, Alan Pedersen, Gail Chiew, Joyce Brinsky, Neal Harrell, Jim Waters, Brenda Jew Waters, Shigeko Shibata, Matt Smith, Terry Haug, Rod Brayfindley, Mike Harrell

Matt Smith called the meeting to order

Grant Report- Mike Harrell provided an update on the new worship service launched by Foothills UMC in May 2016. SUMU granted \$19,425 to Foothills UMC in January, majority of those funds are being used to support the music ministry component of this new worship gathering. Mike provided data on attendance thus far, as well as learnings and insights gained in the process of planning for and offering this new worship gathering.

SUMU Board reviewed and approved minutes from the July meeting.

DS Report- It was noted that Schuyler has a standing commitment that conflicts with regular SUMU Board meetings. The majority of Bridges District communication is being done via social media, Facebook in particular.

Website (sumuchurches.org )- A SUMU website is now available, thanks to Matt Smith for his work on this. Meeting minutes, grant applications, record of grants given can all be accessed via the site. We hope to provide historical/archival information on the site in the future. The websites of all SUMU local churches are linked on the website as well.

Treasurer Report- Vince unable to attend. Board reviewed his reports. Noted that \$25,000 transfer from Wespath to Endowment Board approved at May meeting has been made. Also noted, \$35,000 in funds remain for grants this year. SUMU has requested that the Conference resume the distribution of Second Mile Giving on a consistently scheduled basis throughout the year. We are awaiting a final answer from Conference leadership on this request.

Finance Report- Carol and Matt met with a representative of the North Sacramento congregation and a representative of the Tongan Church that have been renters of the facility for the past 28 years. The Tongan congregation impressed upon SUMU representative the profound emotional, financial, and ministry investment their congregation has made in the property and the surrounding neighborhood. They also have conveyed their desire to continue to utilize and minister out of the facility. Carol shared a Power Point presentation provided by the Tongan Church to illustrate the vitality of their ministry in that place. The following data was provided by the Tongan Church illustrating their depth of investment in the site:

- \$213,000 in rent over 28 years
- \$37,400 contributed toward building repairs
- Over 2 million estimated volunteer hours
- Annual budget of \$15,000
- Pastor does not receive compensation

Matt and Carol will continue to discuss this specific issue with other partners, as part of the larger conversation about North Sacramento congregation's transition. The DS continues to

work with North Sacramento leadership on plans for their potential store front ministry. A pastor is currently appointed to the North Sacramento congregation for the purpose of helping them realize this possibility. The North Sacramento congregation continues to utilize the facility. The realtor has a 6 month contract and has listed the property for sale. There are competing perspectives how much property is actually worth. The realtor is indicating 1.6 million, other informal estimates from developers have been substantially lower.

New Ministry Grants- Due date for next cycle of grants is November 1, 2016. The grant application form is online. A hard copy letter will also go out to SUMU churches as well. An article about this next grant cycle has also been included in the Instant Connection communication from the Conference. Grant recommendations will be acted on at our November meeting.

New Business- The board continued discussion from its May meeting regarding the necessity of creating a separate “new church start” designated fund and funding process that would be separate from SUMU’s current designated fund and grant process for use in revitalization grants. SUMU board discussed and approved moving forward with this concept. Specific details of a potential granting process and the logistics of how SUMU might work in partnership with the Cabinet and the appropriate Conference committee will be provided for review and action at a later meeting.

Matt closed the meeting.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> @ noon @ The Table  
Agenda will include action on grant requests and election of 2017 Officers

Submitted by Mike Harrell, Secretary