

**Sacramento United Methodist Union  
Minutes- November 19, 2015  
The Table United Methodist Church**

Present: Joe Archer, Neal Harrell, Alan Pedersen, Judie Streeter, Tina Ballagh, Kathy LaPoint-Collup, Linda Dew-Hiersoux, Carol Conley, Carol Edwards, Bob Kamuf, Matt Smith, Shigeko Shibata, Gail Chiew, Robin Marose, Mike Harrell

Matt opened meeting with prayer

Reviewed minutes from September meeting, minutes approved as submitted

Matt presented Treasurer reports on behalf of Vince Lepore who was unable to attend. Loans are current and up to date. Total assets \$593,616.90.

Church Development Committee- 3 grant requests submitted this cycle.

- Grant request from Emmanuel UMC for \$7,779.44 to start a praise band and singing team for the youth of the church. Grant to cover purchasing instruments, sound equipment, and paying for music teacher to instruct participants. Church Development committee recommends SUMU decline request, based on a perceived need for more comprehensive and in depth discernment on the part of the congregation about the ability of this ministry to have a sustained and positive impact on the vitality of the congregation.
- Grant request from Riverside UMC for \$15,000 to help fund a community outreach initiative for a children's program as well as funding support for pulpit supply for the congregation's English language worship service to assist the appointed pastor who is a native Chinese speaker. Church Development committee recommends SUMU decline request based on concerns that the children's program seems to have no specific Christian basis and the belief that there are other options for English language pulpit supply through the Conference ClayM and Lay Servant programs. Will encourage congregation to submit a grant request for a second year of funding support for their music/dance ministry, previously funded by a SUMU grant. Will request a report about impacts of the music/dance ministry on the attendance and overall vitality of the congregation as part of that follow up grant request.
- Grant request from Foothills UMC for \$19,425 to help support the congregation's efforts to launch a new worship service in the first quarter of 2016. Church Development committee recommends SUMU declines grant request based on a desire to have more information on the specific age demographic the service is designed to reach as well as specific design elements of the proposed new worship service and the rationale for a one year commitment to the new service as opposed to something more short-term. Foothills was encouraged to address these questions and follow up with SUMU next year.

Recommendations from Church Development committee affirmed by SUMU board, board also affirmed request from Church Development committee to revise grant request application to

include a question inquiring as to how future grant seekers would measure the success of their endeavors.

Finance Report- Finance committee reported reviewing and discussing the Cooperative Church Extension Society Loan Program proposal from the Cabinet. The Cabinet has requested a response to this proposal by November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Finance committee recommends tabling this matter until more detailed and comprehensive information about this proposed program is offered. Following additional discussion as a full board, consensus was reached to decline the invitation to participate in the Cooperative Church Extension Society Loan Program given that it is not in keeping with the specific missional priorities of SUMU. Matt shared correspondence from Debra Brady on the subject of District Askings/ Second Mile Giving and the rate of income of these funds. According to Debra, the change to a Conference Tithe “has resulted in an increase in our connectional giving. However, The Extra Mile Giving has resulted in less funding. We think this is because churches no longer see the break down into the four categories; they don’t understand what it is for nor the consequences of not giving. Some discussion has occurred about whether we might focus on EMG when we are complete with Imagine No Malaria.” The Core Team addressed this issue at their October meeting and will be placing it on the agenda for their January 2016 meeting.

Nominations for SUMU Executive Leadership- The following slate of officers for 2016 were presented and approved:

President: Matt Smith

Vice President: Kathy LaPoint-Collup

Secretary: Mike Harrell

Treasurer: Vince Lepore

Church Development Chairpersons: Joe Archer and Neal Harrell

Finance Committee Chairperson: Carol Edwards

2016 SUMU Executive Leadership approved as presented.

The following 2016 SUMU meeting schedule was discussed and approved:

January 28, 2016 @ The Table

March 17, 2016 @ TBD

May 26, 2016 @ The Table

July 21, 2016 @ The Table

September 15, 2016 @ TBD

November 17, 2016 @ The Table

Archives/History- Carol is continuing to review and organize archive material.

New Business- Neal Harrell presented a loan request from North Sacramento UMC, requesting \$10,000 to cover property insurance. Repayment terms proposed by North Sacramento UMC were \$5,000 in 30 days with additional to be paid back over a period of 8 months. North Sacramento congregation recently began the process to discontinue the congregation. The current status of that process is unclear. SUMU felt it important to clarify where that process stands and any future plans for the property before acting on the loan request. SUMU President, Vice President, Secretary, and Finance chairperson charged with seeking clarification on these issues with the Pastor and DS. Carol and Vince will discuss potential loan structures in parallel to these conversations with the DS and Pastor. Some questions raised for future thought and exploration on this issue:

- Will property and title be transferred to SUMU or are there other plans for the property?
- Are there any liens on the property?
- What are the terms of the lease agreements with the 3 organizations using the facility?
- What would it cost to hire a property manager to care for the property prior to sale?
- Would we consider hiring a videographer to record the story of the congregation's selfless decision to discontinue, and ultimately pay their legacy forward to new ministries.

Submitted by-Mike Harrell