

# 2016 November Stewards Minutes

SEEKERS CHURCH

Stewards Minutes

November 6, 2016

5:00 p.m.

**Present:**

**Stewards:** Marjory Bankson, Peter Bankson (notes), Kevin Barwick, Ken Burton, Joan Dodge (angel), Judy Lantz, David Lloyd, Sandra Miller (worship), Trish Nemore (angel), Brenda Seat, Keith Seat, Vincent Shepherd, Margreta Silverstone, Deborah Sokolove (Moderator) and Jackie Wallen.

**Guests:** Glen Yakushiji, Bettina delSesto, Liz Gould-Leger

**Housekeeping:** Stewards will next meet on Sunday, December 4, at 5:00 pm at the church

Moderator: Dave

Worship: Kevin

Note taker: Marjory

Angels: Brenda & Keith

**Worship** was offered by Sandra.

**Decorating for Christmas:** Dave Lloyd reported that he will be coordinating volunteers to decorate the building for Christmas. Those who want to help are invited to join Dave at about 9:00 AM on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 26<sup>th</sup> to string lights, decorate trees, set up the Advent tableau. Volunteers were asked to contact Dave to let him know they will be there to help.

**Time & Space Mission Group Report:** Several T&S members contributed to the report:

- Peter distributed five slides from the “Shape of Seekers” briefing, summarizing activity in 2016 ([attached](#)).
  - By the end of this year there will have been 711 events by 42 outside groups and several individuals.
  - There are currently 16 other faith communities who use our space regularly.
- Building Repair:
  - The building is aging. (Most of the initial renovation was completed in 2003.)
  - This year we had two major challenges, the ice storm in February and the current failure of the heat exchanger in the HVAC system that serves the sanctuary. Repairing these will require spending from our capital reserve.
  - T&S has requested increased funding for building maintenance in the proposed 2017 budget.
  - Carpet in the conference room is seriously stained, principally by outside groups who bring in coffee in cups with no lids. T&S is considering options to replace the carpet with an appropriate covering that can be replaced in segments, something like carpet tile.
  - T&S is working with the Children’s Team to maintain the play area:
    - Repairing and reinforcing the swing set;
    - Replacing the wood chip ground cover.
- The rear fence requires continuing repair. T&S is considering options to reduce vehicle damage and replace broken pickets and panels.
- Dave reported that another folding table has been damaged beyond repair by an outside group. T&S is prepared to replace the table when we determine that a replacement is needed.
- Katie Fisher is compensated for one day per week to coordinate use of the building.

Stewards’ actions:

- Deborah emphasized that our “Ministry of Place” nurtured by Time &

Space Mission Group really is an important ministry to the community. Trish suggested that we might consider discounts we offer on use of our space as part of our external giving.

- Stewards affirmed with deep appreciation the outstanding support Katie Fisher provides, coordinating the use of our building.

**Draft Seekers Budget for 2017**: Marjory presented the draft budget for 2017, developed by the Financial Oversight Group. (attached). Major elements include:

- Overall level of budgeted income and spending remain at current levels (\$288,000).
- Building support (Time & Space) is increased by \$6,445.
- Marjory clarified distribution of the 2015 year-end surplus:
  - We had a surplus of \$47,829. At the February meeting Stewards decided to allocate these funds as follows:
    - Add \$6,000 to the capital reserve account, following our precedent of not budgeting an amount for it but allocating some of any surplus to it;
    - add \$5,000 to the Holy Spirit fund,
    - Donate \$10,000 to the Capital Area Food Bank (following our precedents),
    - Donate a gift of \$5,000 to Dayspring Church for a need it will identify,
    - Add \$7,500 each to our domestic and international giving.
    - Make a donation of \$5,000 to Still Point Retreat Cabin at Rolling Ridge Study Retreat Community. (Keith/B&B Mission Group will authorize this action.)
    - Marjory proposed that the remainder of the special fund supporting the Guatemala Pilgrimage \$554 be sent to PAVA since there is no apparent energy in Seekers Church at this time to continue supporting the Guatemala Pilgrimage.

**Stewards' Christmas Party** Cynthia Dahlin has volunteered to

coordinate this celebration. Stewards affirmed her commitment with acclamation.

**Seekers Relationship to Church of the Saviour** Keith facilitated a reflection on our current relationship as one faith community in the Church of the Saviour, and our ideas of what might be helpful to draw us together. This question will be on the agenda for an upcoming meeting of the Ecumenical Council, and our conversation will guide Keith as our representative.

We affirmed the importance of our continuing identity as a member of Church of the Saviour, and identified several initiatives that could strengthen our connections and nurture our outreach. Details are in Attachment 3 below.

**Two Stewards to Share:** Sandra and Vincent shared from their personal life journeys.

**Soul Talk.**

Submitted November 12, 2016

Peter Bankson

**ATTACHMENT**

1. 2016 Building Use Summary
2. Draft 32017 Budget
3. Reflections on Relationship to The Church of the Saviour

Attachment 1

**Outside Groups**

Office Operations (3 groups)

Al-Anon/Alateen Info Service of DCMDVA  
 International Foundation for Gender Education  
 New Story Leadership

Faith (14 communities)

Covenant Christian Community Church  
 Blue Mountain Satsang  
 Takoma Children's Minyan  
 Fabrangon Cheder  
 Silver Spring Zendo  
 Insight Meditation of Washington  
 Christ Temple Ministries  
 Christian Community of Washington  
 Church of the Virgin Mother  
 Mindfulness Meditation  
 Minyan Segulah  
 Pavilion of God  
 Spirit Message Tabernacle  
 The Sanctuaries  
 Triumphant Victory Church  
 Vision of the Heart

12-Step (4 groups)

Every Sunday TP Parent Al-Anon  
 Emotions Anonymous  
 Let It Begin With Me  
 Takoma Rush Hour Group

Music/Arts/Dance/Movement

Art Hop Takoma  
 Carpe Diem Arts  
 French Immersion Camp  
 German Immersion Camp  
 Spanish Immersion Camp  
 Community Yoga  
 Folklore Society of Greater Washington  
 Free Minds Write Night  
 House of Musical Traditions  
 Interplay

Mid-Atlantic Norwegian Dancers

Takoma Groove Camp  
 Sacred Harp Singing

Non-Profit Groups

American Red Cross Blood Drive  
 Interfaith Power & Light  
 Potter's House  
 DC Central Kitchen  
 Interfaith Power & Light  
 Takoma Radio WOWD

Other

DC M.A.L.E.S.  
 Color Vowels  
 Private celebrations (9)

**SEEKERS CHURCH**  
**A Christian Community**  
*In the Tradition of the Church of the Saviour*

**Ministry of Place (2016)**

**EVENTS PER MONTH**  
 (not counting Seekers or office activity)

January: 50  
 February: 58  
 March: 60  
 April: 62  
 May: 57  
 June: 65  
 July: 74  
 August: 65  
 September: 62  
 October: 71  
 November: 51 (scheduled)  
 December: 46 (scheduled)  
**TOTAL 711**

**User Contributions**  
**\$35,000**  
 (Estimate)



**Events**  
**Daily Office Operations**

- Celebrations
- Classes
- Concerts
- Healing Groups
- Meditation Groups
- Mission Groups
- Board Meetings
- Planning Meetings
- Public Hearings
- Recitals
- Rehearsals
- Retreats
- Songfests
- Support Groups
- Training
- Therapy
- Workshops
- Worship

November 2016

**SEEKERS CHURCH**  
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## 16 SPIRITUAL COMMUNITIES SHARE OUR SPACE

**Covenant Christian Community Church**  
**Takoma Children's Minyan**  
**Fabrangen Cheder**  
**Blue Mountain Satsang**  
**Silver Spring Zendo**  
**Christ Temple Ministries**  
**Insight Meditation of Washington**  
**Church of the Virgin Mother**  
**Mindfulness Meditation**  
**Minyan Segulah**  
**Pavilion of God**  
**Spirit Message Tabernacle**  
**The Sanctuaries**  
**Triumphant Victory Church**  
**Christian Community of Washington**  
**Visions of the Heart**



November 2016

### 2016 BUDGET+ 9 mos. Actual + DRAFT 2017 Budget

INCOME	2014 FINAL	2015 FINAL	2016 BUDGET	9-months ACTUAL	% of BUD	2017 Budget	% '17 BUD
2015 year end distribution in 2016				21,500	0%		
Building Use	32,451	32,704	30,000	29,415	98%	35,000	12%
Contributions	244,161	266,357	255,000	155,322	61%	250,000	87%
Interest	4,254	2,238	3,000	129	4%	3,000	1%
<b>TOTAL Unrestricted INCOME</b>	<b>280,866</b>	<b>301,299</b>	<b>288,000</b>	<b>206,366</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>288,000</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>							

Building (T&S)	47,208	52,381	57,200	55,555	97%	62,000	21%
Building Ops	47,208	52,381	51,200	49,555		56,000	
Capital Reserve	0 ...	0	6,000	6,000**		6,000	
Community Life	65,461	51,275	77,950	51,292	66%	79,400	28%
	1,704	1,132	4,000	2,708	68%	3,500	
Administration	4,521	5,680	7,200	2,003	28%	7,200	
Mission	57,312	43,219	64,000	43,713	68%	65,950	
Groups*	1,924	1,244	2,000	2,645	132%	2,000	
Staff (6)	....		750	225	30%	750	
Youth							
Activities (SS							
Tm)							
Art Gallery							

Outreach	169,308	149,814	152,100	<b>153,631</b>	118%	146,600	51%
...Domestic	58,300	60,000	60,000	70,500**	110%	60,000	
missions	50,000	50,000	50,000	55,000**	100%	50,000	
...International	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000[1kl]	100%	7k [1k	
...Partnerships	5,000	5,000	(1k}	5,000	100%	Call]	
C of S	4,000	4,000	5,000	5,000	25%	5,000	
Office	650	0	5,000	250	0	5,000	
Covenant:	1,000	200	1,000	—	0	1,000	
Tksgivng	441	800	200	—	??	200	
Dayspring	—	440	800	0	—	800	
Church	41,417	—	600	—	49%	600	
NGOs	1,500	19,974	0/loan	9,924	28%	0/loan	
helping Skrs		2,400	20,000	695		14,500	
Rolling			2,500			2,500	
Ridge							
Stillpoint @							
RRidge							
...Seekers							
Ministries							
Bokamoso							
Workshop							
Carroll							
Café							
Holy Spirit							
Fund							
Growing							
Edge (MSG)							
<b>TOTAL Expenses</b>	<b>281,977</b>	<b>253,470</b>	<b>287,250</b>	<b>260,478</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>288,000</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>NET Result</b>	<b>(1,111)</b>	<b>47,829</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>(54,112)</b>		<b>0</b>	

\*Mission Groups/'16 Budget/Spent

2017 Budget

\*\*2015 Year

**End Distribution**

B&B . . . . . \$600.....187 \$600

**Nov '16)**

CC . . . . . \$1,000.....360 1000

. . . 324

**Designated Funds (1**

Care Packs . . . . .



Is2C . . . . .	\$1,500.....	325	2000	Carroll Café . .
. . . . .	2,801			
Koinonia . . . . .	\$2,500....	....349	.....	Guate
Pilgrimage . . . . .	554			
L&T . . . . .	\$1,000	.....462	1000	Othandweni . . . .
. . . . .	.1,502			
LW . . . . .	\$600.....	.....300	600	Christmas '15 . . .
. . . . .	.2,593			
OMG.....	.....	2000		Year End '15 . . . 11,829
(Dayspg+Stillpoint) <b>Total:</b>			<b>\$7,200</b>	<b>.....2,003</b>
<b>\$7,200</b>		<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>19,603</b>

**Capital Reserve Fund:** \$48, 471

Attachment 3

**Seekers Relationship to Church of the Saviour**

**Notes from Seekers' Stewards Meeting**

**Nov 6, 2016**

Seekers Church is, as we all know, one of the handful of church communities that formed out of the Church of the Saviour in 1976. We have long claimed that Seekers is "in the tradition of the Church of the Saviour" and continue to assert our connection as "a Church of the Saviour community." The Ecumenical Council invited each Church of the Saviour faith community to reflect on the importance of Church of the Saviour as an ongoing organization.

What does that heritage mean for Seekers Church in November 2016? Our

perspectives on the importance of Church of the Saviour for the life of our congregations will be on the agenda for an upcoming Ecumenical Council meeting.

During the November Stewards meeting we reflected on this issue in small groups and then together. In preparation for those conversations, Seekers were invited to thoughtfully/prayerfully consider the following questions:

- Is the Church of the Saviour important to you? Why or why not? What would make CofS more important to you and/or Seekers?
- Is connection with other CofS churches important to you? Why or why not? What are the benefits and/or barriers to having a closer connection?
- Dayspring is now the single shared property owned by CofS on behalf of the sibling communities. How important is Dayspring to you and/or Seekers? Are there ways that could be enhanced?
- What role can/should the Ecumenical Council and the CofS Office play in these issues?
- And finally, to the extent not captured in the previous questions, what does our CofS heritage mean for Seekers Church in 2016 and beyond?

After a time for small-group sharing, those present at the meeting identified these responses:

- Importance of the CofS relationship: a culture of commitment; the structure of Stewards & mission groups, values; focus on call/gifts/ministry of all; regular recommitment. The relationship provides us with a larger whole (affiliation rather than hierarchy of denomination).
- What would help to unify us?
  - CofS website that would report from the churches now;
  - Resource office to share experience with liturgy, Sunday school/youth; School of Christian Living; mission group life
  - Joint events (e.g. Parr lectures, sacred conversations on race and diversity, fundraisers)
  - Dayspring – the physical expression of our spiritual center: Quiet days; Open retreats; Kayla's hospitality ministry;

### Mission group retreats

- Day-long retreats for leadership teams from all 8 churches
- Other retreats with a particular focus (e.g. immigrant sponsorship, SCL, preparation for membership)