

Starmount Endowment Committee Minutes
July 19, 2018
8-9 am

Present: Elaine D. Gustafson, Chair; Pastor Charlie Lee (staff), Frank (Mac) McClanahan, Donna Moffitt, BJ Pearce, Kathie Tiedeman (ex officio), and Libby Wilson (staff)
Excused: Salem Bullard, David Goltare, and Mitchell Hunt

- I. Opening Prayer: Elaine
- II. Libby reviewed the quarterly statement for the Endowment funds.
 - a. A contribution of \$450 was added to the Ministerial Scholarship Fund; this was the excess money from the congregation's contributions toward the purchase of a ministerial robe for Matt Copple.
 - b. Also, \$20,000 was deducted from the M.P. Bennett Mission Fund to put toward the purchase of a vehicle for the Egg Farms in the Congo. The use of this money had been approved by the committee two or three years earlier, but was just being spent now because of past political unrest. Congo truck total cost was \$41,000; the wire fee was \$30.
 - c. The Market Value of all the accounts as of June 30th was \$1,048,942.30, with a Year-to-Date investment return rate of 2.41%. (The Stock Index's YTD return is 3.43% and the Bond Fund YTD return is -1.63%.)
- III. Updates were made to the *Declarations of The Starmount Presbyterian Church Endowment* and its *Supplement*
 - a. The Committee reviewed the proposed edits and suggested additional ones to both documents. Elaine will make these changes and share them with Session at its August meeting for approval.
- IV. The Committee discussed potential funds to re-invest monies earned from the sale of Lillian Steele Exxon stocks should the stock reach \$90/share.
 - a. Libby informed the committee that she had a sell order in for 1,000 shares for when it reached \$90. Kathie suggested putting in a trailing stop order for appreciation above and below certain amounts.

- b. The suggestion also was made that a sub-committee of the Endowment Committee meet to discuss issues surrounding the potential liquidation of Exxon stock and to come up with a short-term plan on the use of the cash. For example, how should we re-invest the money: stocks, CDs?, will a loss from the sale offset earned dividends?, should we sell more than 1,000 shares?, should we invest in things that offer cash dividends?
 - c. A large unknown at this point is the Finance Committee's overview and summation of the Lillian Steele bequest due out in September. The sub-committee will need to know if the projected cash needs of the church require liquidation of a certain amount of Exxon stock, and if the congregation supports this use. Presently the church has enough cash to supplement its operational budget for 2.5 years.
 - d. The Committee acknowledged that any plan might have to be reassessed at a later date, but that it would be good to be proactive and have a base plan. Elaine will contact individuals personally to see if they are willing to be on this sub-committee. Ideally, the sub-committee would meet 2-3 times and report its progress at our next Endowment meeting in October.
- V. Old Business
- a. Pastor Charlie reported that the General Assembly voted not to divest from fossil fuel companies. The Committee's motion was defeated by a minority report from the floor. The floor felt that as a whole the Church would have a larger voice at the table by staying involved with these companies. Continued participation was a more active way to guide the conversation and affect efforts to diminish climate change.
- VI. New Business: next meeting will be October 18, 8-9 am
- VII. Closing Prayer: Pastor Charlie