

MINUTES- CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MAY 1, 2005

President Anne Haynes opened the meeting at 12:30 with the Rev. Barbara Carlson lighting the Chalice.

MOTION:

Harlan Lewis moved and Doris Whittenberg seconded that the minutes from the meeting be approved by the Board of Directors.

Vote: motion passed unanimously

SERVICE AWARDS:

n Cookie Lynch was honored as a woman of courage for her 53 years of service and financial support of the church. In accepting she noted with her usual humor that "some of it is true."

n Jack and Sylvia King were honored for their many and various services to the church, in particular for social justice causes.

SPECIAL PURPOSES TRUST FUND

Libby DeVoe explained the rules and uses for the money in the fund, and noted some highlights for the year. There were music programs from fund honoring Fran Feddersen and Ray Murray, the oral history project, the sound baffles and the Rev. Barbara Carlson's retirement party.

(Report attached)

EXPANDING THE CIRCLE

Connie Loftman reported for the Expanding the Circle work developing the two-service format. (attached) The committee recommends continuing the two service and reported that attendance has increased 24 percent.

The challenges created by the new format include maintaining connections among members and friends, support for the ministerial staff and building the volunteer corps.

Anne Haynes thanked the committee for its successful work.

MOTION: Steve Dillon moved and Ruellen Fessenbecker seconded that the Congregation adopt the recommendation to continue with two services.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

SOCIAL JUSTICE GRANTS/SUNDAY PLATE PERCENTAGE

Jackie Hall reported that many members want to see more than 10 percent of the Sunday plate collection going to charity. The Social Justice Coordinating Council, the Stewardship Committee and the Finance Committee all propose that the amount be increase to 25 percent. She said she expected both support for the collection and the income from it to increase because of an increase in generosity. She noted the Board of Directors has approved the plan.

MOTION: Jackie Hall moved and Joan Caulton seconded that the Sunday plate charity contribution increase from 10 to 25 percent of the non-pledged money.

Discussion

It was noted in discussion that this pertains to non-pledged money only. It was pointed out that the current monthly amount going to charity from the basket is between \$250 and \$300.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

AGENCY TO RECEIVE 25 PERCENT OF SUNDAY PLATE

Bob DeVoe reported that there was one applicant for the support this year, the Community Justice and Mediation Center. It was a runner-up for the support last year.

MOTION: Bob DeVoe moved and Steve Dillon seconded that 25 percent of the Sunday Plate collection go to the Community Justice and Mediation Center for this fiscal year.

Discussion; Byron Bangert, who nominated the Center for the support, explained the group's history and its predecessors in jail improvement groups, the Juvenile Justice Center and the Conflict Mediation Program. He noted that using all the money for one program offers more impact. It was also noted that we need more discussion before it is divided.

A suggestion that Martha's House would be a worthy agency was made.

It was noted that the beneficiaries should not become dependent on the support money.

A question was raised about supporting city programs and services with the money, as the church pays no tax support to the city. City contributions are made by other churches.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Andrew Appel explained the deficit budget process of recent years and why this year the budget must balance. (attached)

He explained several budget lines in particular, noting areas that increased or decreased and areas where requests were not met.

He also explained that the church has a balloon mortgage at 6.1 percent with five years left to go on it. The balance is around \$400,000.

Discussion:

Iris Kiesling noted that the budgeted pay for delegates to the General Assembly should be revisited with more subsidy for registration considered.

MOTION: Harlan Lewis moved and Steve Dillon seconded that the Congregation accept the budget.

Discussion:

The questions was asked: What if we have another deficit year? Andrew Appel said that we would know that by the fall Congregational Meeting and we might have to consider cutting this budget at that time. He added that he is not likely to recommend taking a loan.

Vote: The motion passed with two opposing votes.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ruellen Fessenbecker explained how nominations are made and presented the slate for the coming year:

Executive Committee:

President: Chris Clothier

Vice President: Jason Hill

Secretary: Dorothy Sowell

Treasurer: Andrew Appel

Past president: Anne Haynes

At Large members:

Steve Dillon

GK Rowe

Dick Hiatt

Karen Jewell

David Cox

Marion Sinclair

Chris Judge

Nominating Committee:

Harlan Lewis

Ruellen Fessenbecker

Mary Beth O'Brien

Special Purposes Trust Fund:

Diane Gregory

Harlan Lewis

Bob Port

MOTION: Ruellen Fessenbecker moved and Harlan Lewis seconded that the slate be approved.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

MINSTER EMERITA COVENANT

Pep Sobrer presented the proposed Covenant the Congregation will enter into with the Rev. Barbara Carlson as Minister Emerita. (Attached)

MOTION: Pep Sobrer moved and Harlan Lewis seconded that the covenant be accepted.

Vote: Motion passed with one nay vote

PERSONAL COMMUNICATION

Anne Haynes welcomed Chris Clothier to a year of service as President next year. She thanked the board members who are finishing their terms.

Bob DeVoe offered thanks on behalf of all to Anne Haynes for a wonderful year of church work, done with efficiency and lots of smiles.

Adjourn

Andrea Murray