

# MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING DEC. 5, 2004 (rev. 12-14-04)

12:45 p.m

President Anne Haynes called the meeting to order. The chalice lighting and opening words were from the Rev. Barbara Carlson. A quorum was established, with 58 members recorded as attending.

## BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUNDS

Treasurer Andrew Appel explained that the finance committee is asking for the ability to treat the Building Maintenance Budget line as a reserve line. As a reserve it can roll over to the next year if money remains. This will let us build a reserve fund for long-range maintenance. This will facilitate planning.

## MOTION

Deb Hutton moved and Iris Kiesling seconded that the congregation approve designating the Building Maintenance Fund as a reserve fund line.

## Discussion:

It was suggested that the motion include language that charges the Board of Directors to attend to the long-range planning element of the fund.

Andrew Appel explained that expenditures out of the Building Maintenance Reserve Fund line may, in the future, be large enough to congregational vote. That would happen if a large expenditure requires more than 10 percent of the existing maintenance budget for the year.

Vote: The motion passes unanimously

## EXPENDITURE FROM THE 3% SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND

Bob Devoe made a presentation to explain why the Congregation should approve allocating \$2,650 from the Social Justice Fund Large Grant Fund to Sheri Benham's Stepping Stones project. (See attached hand-out)

He explained the project, which is a plan to provide transitional housing for troubled youth. He noted that the funds being requested are intended to use as matching funds for a much larger federal grant of \$232,000. Locally \$46,000 is needed to match this grant and Sheri has already raised \$10,500.

He noted that the Social Justice Small Grant Fund Committee enthusiastically endorses the project. But there isn't enough money in the small grant fund to cover the request. The large grant fund has the money, but the Congregation must approve it.

## MOTION

Bob Devoe moved and Joan Caulton seconded that the Congregation approve spending \$2,650 from the Social Justice Large Grant Fund to help pay fund raising expenses for Stepping Stones.

## Discussion

It was noted that this expenditure is a one-time thing.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously

## CO MINISTRY

Anne Haynes explained the Church's recent co-ministry review with the Heartland District representative, the Committee on Ministry and the Executive Committee. The plans are to continue the co-ministry and designate the coming year (June 2005-July 2006) as an "interim year," a time of planning and visioning. During that time, the Rev. Mary Ann Macklin and the Rev. Bill Breeden would each maintain three-quarter time schedules. Additional ministerial duties equivalent to one-quarter time would be contracted.

MOTION: Harlan Lewis moved and Ruellen Fessenbecker seconded the Congregation approve the following motion: The Rev. Carlson's retirement June 30 marks the end of a three-year co-ministry experiment. We would like to reaffirm our commitments to the ministries of the Rev. Macklin and the Rev. Breeden, and continue with a co-ministry consisting of each of them as three-quarter time ministers.

## Discussion:

It was asked if full time offers had been made to either minister and Anne reported that they prefer to remain at the three-quarter time level.

It was asked how it would be decided who would provide contracted ministerial duties. Mary Ann and Bill responded that they would work with the Committee on Ministry and the Board to determine where the needs are. The Church will also get advice from the UUA and the District executive.

Vote: Motion passed with one abstaining vote

MOTION: Harlan Lewis moved and Jack King seconded that the Congregation approve the following motion: The year July 1, 2005, through June 2006 will be seen as a transitional/visioning year for our Congregation, to include

revisiting our mission and vision statement. This transitional year will be preceded by a celebration period until the end of the current co-ministry. During the transitional year, in place of the Rev. Carlson's quarter-time ministry, the church may contract for various ministerial duties.

#### Discussion

Harlan Lewis noted that the wording on the motion is somewhat vague, particularly on the point of contracting for services quarter-time. He asked for specifics.

Bill responded that the church is coming to the end of its most recent long-range plan, the church is growing and that some intimacy in the congregation has been lost. We want to take a year to find out who we are. We need to get started on another long-range vision to help us determine what our ministerial needs are. Meetings will start immediately on this. In the meantime, as an example of contracting for ministerial services, there are several ministers in the congregation who may be able to help out over a summer. The services might be needed for a week or a month at a time. More concrete information will be available at the May Congregational Meeting.

Mary Ann responded that this meeting and this motion are intended to get us on the path to prepare for more planning and new ways of looking at the ministry.

Bill added that both he and Mary Ann are committed to the idea of meeting the pastoral needs of the congregation. He noted that more questions can be brought before the Committee on Ministry, with members Joan Bennet, Pep Sobrer and Cindy Port.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously

#### MINISTER EMERITA

Anne explained briefly what the plans for Minister Emerita will involve along with the requirement for a one-year absence from the Congregation.

#### MOTION

Harlan Lewis moved and Ruellen Fessenbecker seconded that the Congregation begin plans to bestow the Minister Emerita designation on Barbara Carlson.

#### Discussion

Several member said they are not happy with the one-year absence rule.

Bill explained that this is a policy the UUA recommends and that Barbara will be the first to adhere to it. It is a policy that protects the minister as well as the congregation. It is standard operating procedure for many denominations.

Mary Ann noted that this policy helps a minister let go of a congregation. She observed the process first-hand in Madison. "We have to let go for awhile. We have to honor this profound change this way. I don't like it, but I get it."

Anne Haynes explained that today's motion is just for permission to go ahead with the process and set up the covenants under which the Minister Emerita designation will be bestowed.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Dann Lodge-Rigal thanked the congregation for the money that comes to Shalom Center from the 10 percent in the collection baskets.

An 18-second video about the church that is airing on WTIU was show.

Adjourn 1:10

Submitted by Andrea Murray

Secretary to the Board