

Executive Board Meeting Notes – 11/18/2008

Present: Phil Guymont (Trustees), Kevern Joyce (Moderator), Pam Joyce (Outreach), Sonja White (Guild), Rev. Will Sencabaugh, Jeff Stone (Deacons), Deb Durland (Ways & Means), Harry Schoening (Treasurer), Bob Lytle (nominating), Jim Forbush (Stewardship), Cecelia Roberts (Directory), Wendy Reardon (Religious Education), Daphne Siegel (Youth Groups), Larry Bedell (Deacons).

Moderator Kevern Joyce called the meeting to order at 7:02PM.

Considerable discussion was devoted to the level of information that should be included in the new online directory. It was agreed that names and photos would go into one password protected directory and addresses, phone numbers and e-mails would be maintained in a separate directory.

Jim Forbush reported that the Stewardship Campaign is going well. We have 54 pledges in and 34 are new or increases, 16 stayed the same and only 4 decreased. Dedication Sunday is November 23. Jim also reported that we delivered over \$1,100 from the turkey sale to Market Ministries. As always, the funds were greatly appreciated.

It was suggested and agreed that to the extent possible we show all funds raised from the congregation and forwarded to other organizations in the financial statements.

Ways and Means will host ice skating on Dec. 7 and a dinner later this winter.

Phil reported that the kitchen roof is in need of repair and will be looking for bids for doing the job.

Jeff reported that the deacons have decided that the Bibles that will go into the pews should be the New Revised Standard Version, which is the most commonly used in the Congregational Church. We will be offering the opportunity for members to purchase the same Bibles for their own use and to be given to the church in memory of others.

The deacons are also discussing better ways to welcome new members and visitors to our church. Our current efforts to do this are weak.

It was mentioned that the birthday list needs to be reviewed. Need to find which records it is derived from.

Pam reported that PACCA truly appreciated our efforts at their facility. It was a good project and well done. The Holiday Hope project will kick off in Dec. A coat drive is expected in Jan. and we may sponsor a pajama drive.

Wendy said they plan to make for sale at least 100 pies. The greenhouse frame is up and that will be the way it remains until spring. They do not plan any big cardboard scene in the sanctuary for Advent.

Sonja reported that the Women's Guild will continue. There will be a rummage sale in May. They are looking into replacement of the dishwasher and expect that they have funds available to do that. They will meet with Will to discuss the future and organization of the Guild.

Daphne reported that youth fellowship is going strong. They decorated stockings for Holiday Hope. Al made a new game and the kids all love it. The Jr. Youth have discussed other religions and will be hosting a coffee hour. 23 kids are going to see Blue Man Group in Boston. They will be doing cookie baking and delivery at Christmas.

We next discussed Rev. Wills initial thoughts on things we need to focus the congregation on. These were outlined in this way:

AN OUTLINE OF POTENTIAL AND POSSIBILITY

1. *Streamline the committee structure* and move into a more *permission giving* model.

- a. 96 people needed to serve current structure
- b. Core group of 60 (simple math)
- c. Explain permission giving as Congregational
- d. Communication and Trust are key elements

2. Move from obligation/duty into *discipleship*

- a. New Members are not numbers, units or slot-fillers
- b. We stress the importance of membership as a way to live out our faith; our time, talent and treasure as a means of worship
- c. New Members add stress to a congregation

3. *The Bible*, to coincide with arrival of new Bibles

- a. Bible Study classes
 - i. Bible 101
 - ii. An ongoing weekly Bible Discussion group
 - iii. Special theme based 6 week studies
- b. Use of Bibles on Sunday morning
- c. A Bible Study option that committees can use as a devotion for their monthly meeting

4. Creation of *new ministry opportunities*- Teams

- a. Audio/Visual Team
- b. Hospitality/New Member Team
- c. Alternative worship possibilities
- d. What are we not doing ????

5. Create a *Vision Statement*

- a. craft and wordsmith a vision
- b. Congregation votes "Yes"
- c. We check everything we do against our vision

The Executive Committee was very supportive of the direction that Will believes we need to move. Things should begin with communication and discussion. After a lot on input we should move to adjust or remodel our bylaws to fit the new direction and vision. A preliminary discussion will begin at the January Congregational Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15.