

Executive Committee Meeting

February 19, 2008

Attendees: Philip Guymont (acting chair), Elizabeth King, Susan McLaren, Harry Schoening, Paul Durland, Debbie Durland, Rich Brosky, Jeff Stone

Meeting Minutes:

1) Daphne Siegel's request to sell tickets at coffee hour on March 16 for the junior fellowship's annual pasta dinner fundraiser was approved by the Executive Committee.

2) On behalf of the Transition Team Susan McLaren raised the issue of asking the Boards and Committees of the church to do an assessment of their current status, in terms of staffing levels, activities, vitality, and future direction. Elizabeth further elaborated on the rationale and process for an assessment and explained that it was a useful activity to undertake during this transition period. This could start by having a 30 minute discussion led by Elizabeth at the next "all committee" meeting on March 11, and the output from that discussion would be given back to the boards to do their own self-assessment.

Although the Executive Committee did not oppose doing this activity, the group seemed to feel it would not get at some of the underlying issues confronting the church, such as lack of participation and commitment, burn-out of leadership, recent membership losses, etc. Some also felt that similar work was already done during the visioning process and other activities. No decisions were made on this subject. Elizabeth and the Transition Team will determine next steps.

3) Approval of capital expense items – Phil Guymont raised this issue again as it had been discussed at several previous meetings without resolution. A previous attempt to reach agreement on language for a bylaw change was unsuccessful. Kevern Joyce (not attending meeting) recently suggested that the group develop language for a capital expense policy instead of a bylaw.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Phil recommended the following language:

The Operating Budget and Capital Budget will be presented and voted on separately at the October Quarterly Meeting. At that time, all planned capital projects will be presented to the congregation for approval. Subsequent to that meeting, all non-emergency capital projects in excess of \$10,000 will be presented for approval at a meeting of the congregation.

There was a long discussion about church finances and past capital approvals, and some felt that the congregation needs to be more engaged in financial decisions. In particular there was concern about the widening gap between pledges and expenses and the fact that this gap has grown significantly since 2002. The Executive Committee voted to adopt

the language proposed by Phil Guymont to describe how capital expense approvals would be handled by the church. Harry Schoening suggested, and the Committee agreed, that the decision about whether this language would become a policy or bylaw should be tabled to the next meeting for discussion with Kevern Joyce.

Board Updates:

- Nominating – Sue Sullivan has expressed interest in joining Outreach. Bob Lytle is still searching for a new Clerk to replace Cindy Scheller in the spring.
- Deacons – Jeff Stone reported that Deacons are considering doing some small group meetings in the spring in people's homes. Elizabeth also mentioned a plan to have discussions with the congregation regarding having bibles in the pews. A generous donor has offered to buy 100 bibles for the church in honor of the Bicentennial. There will be more follow up on this after Easter.
- Outreach – Our church's Relay for Life initiative will be managed by Outreach this year, with Brian Fernandes playing the leadership role. The Relay is on June 20-21. Outreach will also help with Links for a Cure (June 7), the golf fundraiser organized by the Roberts family. Half the proceeds from this event go to the Team Congo fundraising effort for the Relay. Outreach plans to sponsor another church work project this year but will do it in the fall instead of spring due to scheduling conflicts. The group is currently researching potential worksites; the date is TBD.
- Search Committee – 59 profiles have been received and 6 candidates interviewed in person. The Committee is enthusiastic about progress to date and feels they have at least 3 strong candidates in the running.
- Ways & Means – The group is working hard on their theatrical presentation of *Wake the Dead*, which has been rescheduled to April 13. The Padanaram Garden Market is planned for May 17.
- Finance – Expenses are in line for this time of year. Nothing unusual to report.