

The January meeting of the Congregation of the United Evangelical Church was held on January 31, 1969.

The meeting was called to order by Council Vice-President, Fred Long, and opened with a prayer by Pastor Paul A. Rasche.

There were 34 voting members in attendance.

The minutes for the Congregational meeting held on Friday, November 29, 1968 were read and approved as submitted.

The financial report for the year 1968 was reviewed and Vice-President Fred Long and other Council members answered questions concerning the report.

Pastor Rasche reported that our spirit of togetherness and fellowship intensified during the year and that there were signs of real life in the congregation even though attendance did not advance. Pastor Rasche noted two achievements which pleased him, one the celebration of our 95th anniversary with the special services and the anniversary dance; the other the Retreat at New Windsor in which pastors and about 25 laymen spent some solid hours on Friday evening and Saturday in looking at our church in terms of its real mission in our day and our time. Pastor Rasche noted the birth of two new organizations - the United Men's Fellowship and the Youth Fellowship.

Pastor Weisser reported that he has been with us for a year now and that he has enjoyed it, and trusts also that his stay has been fruitful in the direction that was intended. Dr. Weisser has completed 4/5 of the 450 names that were given him for visitation; and as a result some of these people have been brought into more active relationship again. Dr. Weisser will be working in conjunction with Pastor Rasche in developing a more effective adult program in the church. The Retreat at New Windsor and its follow-up were moves in this direction.

Annual reports of Church Organizations:

The Ladies Aid Society had another fine year and after giving generously to Mission and other church organizations, again made a gift of \$500 to the Church.

The Young Women's Guild was very active through the year with their many money making projects. They gave generously to Church organizations, mission and also made a gift to the Church of \$500.

The Senior Choir besides giving of their time and fine voices, gave \$75 toward the organ fund.

Boy Scouts - presently have 32 boys in troop, sent 21 boys to camp - had three day hikes and five overnight camps - sent one boys to Thunderbird Training for one week. The scouts are \$28.52 in debt.

Girl Scouts - need housing because of the rapid expansion of the cadets Jr. Girls and the Brownies.

Church School - Mr. Bauersfeld reported a good year - teaching staff stable - attendance between 55 and 58%, enrollment increased over previous year to approximately 400. The past few years Church School spent \$6000 for refurbishing and are now just \$1200 away from goal. The various departments have been helpful with their sale of

the Ladies Adult Class with their sale of candies at Christmas came in handy. Happy to report about 25% of income goes to Benevolence. Church School to start Teacher Training so that it will be able to utilize to more advantage the fine building and equipment which we have at hand. Mr. Marty Walsh read the financial report.

Sewing Group - Through gifts from the Young Women's Guild and the Ladies Aid Society and dues of its fine members, this group is making many useful items for the hospitals.

Old Business - Pastor Rasche reported Teen Nite held on Fridays, September through May, is handled by Mrs. Marie O'Donnell and by Mr. Robert Logue who is hired. They are helped by volunteers and try to make a joyful evening for some 30 to 40 and sometimes 120 children - (when there is a band). This is a fine service to the Community; the bank account is approximately \$295.

New Business - Mrs. Lois Duvall reported that the Lenten Sales and all the work associated with it was too much for the older women of the Church to handle, and there weren't enough young women to take over. The Young Women's Guild took a vote as to whether the Lenten Sales would continue and the tally showed 19 against and 16 for. There were congregational members present who thought the sales should continue, but they could not come up with a workable plan. Pastor Rasche said that we would lose about \$1300 by not having the sales, but in view of the circumstances we hardly had a choice. Alfred Johnson motioned in behalf of the congregation that we abide by the decision of the Women's Guild to discontinue the Lenten Sales knowing that the ladies will find some other way of financially helping our Church as they always have in the past. Mrs. Lois Duvall seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Pastor Rasche noted that nothing has been done toward modifying our church organ which would cost \$25,000; he said this project could be taken in steps. The question also came up about moving the console of the organ and the choir to the balcony. Mr. Fader said both of these items would be taken up at the next Council Board meeting.

William Voelker made a motion that the meeting be adjourned and William Single seconded the motion.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer and the Benediction by Dr. Weisser.

Respectfully submitted,

Louis W. Parker, Sr.
Recording Secretary