

The January meeting of the Congregation of the United Evangelical Church was held January 30, 1970.

The meeting was called to order by Council President, J. Albert Fader, Sr. and opened with a prayer by Pastor Paul A. Rasche.

There were 34 voting members in attendance.

The minutes of the Congregational meeting held on Friday, November 28, 1969 were read and approved as submitted.

Old Business: Mr. Fader stated that the Lenten Sales will be on for this year after being eliminated for the year of 1969. Food to go would be sold only by ordering in advance and not over the counter. Assistance from the men and women of the church would have to be had if this huge job is to be successful. Mr. Fader promised a flyer out by next Sunday listing dates, times and other pertinent information. Mrs. Grace Fader through a determined effort to unite the women and men workers was responsible for the return of our Lenten Sales which through the years have contributed so much in the way of financial help to our church.

New Business: William Voelker after having participated in the last audit of the Church books suggested that in the future this job be let out to a CPA or an accounting firm. This action, according to Mr. Voelker, would certainly not be a reflection on the integrity of Ernest Jones but solely in the interest of sound business practices.

Excerpts from annual reports of our Pastors and Church organizations revealed the following:

Sewing Group - sewed and made up over 1200 useful articles for City Hospital, Rosewood and Mental Hospital

Total income for 1969	\$382.38
Total expenses	<u>327.56</u>
Balance	\$ 54.82

Young Women's Guild - graciously gave to Hoffman Home, Homewood Home, memorials and other special gifts to the sum of \$700. Their gift to the church was \$900.

Balance General Fund	\$225.52
Balance Mission Fund	265.12

Ladies Aid - continued their benevolence by giving some \$200 to many worthwhile causes. A gift of \$500 was made to the church.

Choir - Mr. Albert Witzke invited everyone to come join the Senior Choir. Mr. Witzke also asked if anything had been done about moving the choir and the organ console to the balcony. Mr. Fader said that he would check into the matter. The Choir presented a fine Easter Cantata and paid the soloists \$50 from their own treasury.

Balance January 22	\$257.00
--------------------	----------

7-3-70
Church School - Mr. Bauersfeld reported the furniture and fixture debt almost cleared out, and that the goal this year would be a 16 millimeter sound motion picture projector. A piano and drapes for the windows were purchased during the year. Church School members numbered 399 with an average attendance of 47%.

Mens Fellowship - Marty Walsh read the complete financial report. Paul Bauersfeld presented the church a check for \$108 proceeds from Spaghetti Dinner and invited all the men present to join the Fellowship which meets 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Youth - the teen nights on Friday did not open as their was not a good organization. The High School program for youth and the young adults 18 and up did not pan out. Youth committee will concentrate on sorely needed youth programs.

Scouts - We presently have two groups of Boy Scout activities and two groups of Girl Scout activities. All groups meet on Mondays.

Canton Christian Council - in operation for the third year some of the member churches experiencing difficulties believed to be caused by an uproar in protestantism. Daily Vacation Bible School led by Mrs. May Getz was well attended. Camping worked out well - sent 90 children to camp for one week. On going work with food baskets - still have a lot of food for needy. Last meeting was very successful and Canton Christian Council is in good shape financially.

Pastor Rasche's Report - Pastor Rasche thanked all officers, Council members, staff and congregation for a very worthwhile year in the history of the Church.

Our average Sunday attendance at church services was 368 or a figure of 52% of our membership; far above the national level of 33%. There were not too many outstanding events, but the spirit of cooperation and togetherness were very much in evidence.

Pastor Rasche then presented seven recommendations to the congregation for discussion and decision. They are in abbreviated form as follows:

1. Change Confirmands Presentation Service from Sunday to Thursday
2. Increase Confirmands instructions to two years
3. Junior Council both boys and girls be allowed to participate in morning services
4. Youth participation in the church services using their own liturgies, music and even their own interpretation of the Sacrament
5. Understanding on the use of our Church property to open it up to more community functions so that youth could benefit
6. Change By-laws to have Congregational meetings held in the latter parts of November and January instead of the last Friday of November and January
7. Elimination of Good Friday evening service

Recommendation number one was approved by a motion from Richard Single and seconded by Arthur Block and was unanimously carried.

Recommendation number two was approved by a motion from George Tuerk and seconded by Ernest Jones and was unanimously carried.

Noting that the discussion and passing on the five remaining recommendations would consume too much time it was decided to take these up later at a special meeting called by the Church Council.

A special meeting was held on April 19 in Friendship Hall at which time recommendations 3, 5, 6 and 7 were approved, and another special meeting was held in the Sanctuary of the church where recommendation number four was thoroughly discussed and voted on. This recommendation has to do with Youth participation in the Church services where they would use their own liturgies, music, messages and even their own interpretation of the Sacrament. This recommendation was disapproved after a lengthy debate.

Pastor Weisser's Report - Pastor Weisser stated that he again had visited several hundred people as a representative of the Church seeking to make people aware of our interest in them and their welfare and frequently inquiring as to the reasons for absences from services, and also, in many instances, reminding individuals and families of their membership responsibilities.

In the field of Adult Programming Pastor Weisser has been attempting through Focus Groups of lay people, to help extend the horizons of the laity.

There being no other business to come before the Congregation at this time, the meeting was adjourned.

Dr. Weisser closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Louis W. Parker, Sr.
Recording Secretary