

Minutes of the Special Meeting of October 17

On October 17 the Council Board met with the officers of the United Men's Club. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the United Men's Club activities. Those present from the United Men's Club were President Gilbert Felter, Henry Smit and David Harmening. The Council Board was represented by Albert Fader acting as spokesman, Louis Mueller, William Single III, Ernest Jones, Louis Smith, Arthur Block, William Voelker, George Sauer, and Louis Parker Sr.

Our spokesman contended that the United Men's Club did not abide by its constitution when it took Non-Protestant members into the United Men's Club. Mr. Fader went on to say that he did not like cocktail parties held in the name of the United Men's Club nor did he approve of the type of dances that the club was holding of late where most of the people attending were non club or Church members. There is a large turn-out at these dances and quite a bit of whiskey is consumed, this is a matter of concern for the Council Board members who are afraid of trouble starting. The Council Board related that the opening paragraph of the United Men's Club Constitution states that this would be a group of men working together to further the Kingdom of God, and right now very little of this type of activity was in evidence.

The president of the United Men's Club, Gilbert Felter, responded at this point. He said that he was pleased to know that the Council Board was aware of the plight of the United Men's Club and that he thought this type of meeting was long over-due. The fact that the Men's Club has been drifting away from the Church has disturbed him and other officers of the Club; they would like to have more solid members of the Church join-up, turn-out and help mold the functions and goals of the Club. Mr. Felter informed us that the Non-Protestant men on the bowling teams were not full-fledged members of the United Men's Club, but were associate members paying half dues and with no voting privileges. Henry Smit cited the time when the United Men's Club wanted to hold a Crab Cake Dinner to benefit the Church where upon the Ladies Aid objected.

Gilbert Felter asked specifically of the Council Board if it wanted the United Men's Club to hold dances in the future. The Council Board did not rule them out, but did favor a smaller dance where we concentrated on getting United Men's Club and Church members to attend. Mr. Felter made mention of the United Men's Club dance which is coming up Nov. 25, 1967. It will be a big affair; the type that is hard to promote and one that is expected to give little proceeds. He said that it is exactly the type of dance that we are wary of, but that it is too late to call it off now. The Council Board suggested we evaluate this dance for what it is worth in proceeds in face of the difficulties encountered in its promotion and the risks involved holding such a large affair.

Henry Smit said the United Men's Club members felt slighted when they were not invited to participate in Laity Sunday Services at the Church. Pastor Rasche said the United Men's Club need only to speak up that he would certainly make place for them. Pastor Rasche said the United Men's Club would like to be seen attend Laity Sunday en-masse. Albert Fader encouraged the United Men's Club to make use of the "Endeavor" for any pertinent information they wanted to pass on to the Congregation. The Council Board recommended that the United Men's Club make necessary amendments to its constitution to clarify its position on Non-Protestant members being allowed to join the club. The Council Board has no objection to this except that the Non-Protestant member will not be eligible to run for office in the club.

Gilbert Felter made the statement that the United Men's Club needs the Church more than the Church needs the club and he expressed an earnest desire to bring the club back into the Church. The Council Board would like to see this come about and pledged its full cooperation. The United Men's Club and the Council Board will be thinking these problems out in the coming months.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Louis Parker Sr.

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Recording Secretary