

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Monday, March 9, 1964. Those present were Messrs. Arthur Block, William Single, III, Ernest Jones, Financial Secretary, and Richard W. Single, Treasurer.

Those matters considered were as follows:

- (1) Current income patterns as compared with previous years.
- (2) What effectual steps can be taken to improve the financial position of United Church?

In consequence of the discussion had on the preceding matters, the Finance Committee is prepared to offer the following facts and recommendations for the consideration of the Pastor and Church Council.

(1) Close examination of current income patterns tends to reveal a steady increase in receipts over the past several years. The December-January periods of the following years were examined with the indicated results being:

Periods	<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>
Dec 61-Jan 62	\$7870.00	
Dec 62-Jan 63	\$9160.00	17%
Dec 63-Jan 64	\$9900.00	10%

Present misconceptions concerning income patterns result from inconsistent accounting procedures, to wit; all income from the calendar year is not always included in that years receipts, thereby casting a distorted picture of the total annual income. The reason for this distortion seems to be predicated upon the time period between the last service of the calendar year and the next successive Council meeting. Unless all offerings are counted promptly, there is not sufficient time for the Financial Secretary to include these amounts in his annual report, said report being due at the first Council meeting of the new year.

Recommendation - In order to obviate the above-described condition it is the recommendation of the Finance Committee, that, if necessary,

a special meeting of the Church Council be called to complete the counting procedure in sufficient time to allow for preparation of the annual report by the Financial Secretary.

(2) In an effort to determine what effectual steps can be taken to improve the financial position of United Church, two major areas were discussed; a Corrective measures to be instituted immediately and, b "Long-Range" measures designed to achieve this goal.

a - At the present time United Church has a "paper" congregation of some 1000 plus members. For these members, we are currently obliged to pay an apportionment figure of approximately \$13.00 per capita per annum. By immediately reviewing the membership rolls of United Church, and removing all inactive members from said rolls, your Finance Committee estimates that an actual, active congregation of 700 contributing members would be established, thereby reducing our apportionment by approximately \$4000.00 per year.

(2a) Reccomendation = It is, therefore, the reccommendation of the Finance Committee that a "crash program" be instituted to delete from the rolls - in accordanc with the Constitution and By-Laws - all inactive members; that upon completion of said program, notice be sent to the Potomac Synod advising them of the corrected membership, and thereby amending our apportionment for the coming year(1965.)

b - In considering what "Long-Range" measures might be instituted to bolster the financial position of United Church, the Finance Committee took into consideration attendance trends and patterns. It should be here noted that one prime factor in increasing stewardship, is by increasing attendance. Two possible opportunities presented themselves for consideration.

1 - The Finance Committee was in complete accord that the sacrament of Communion should be made an integral part of the church service, per se. At the present time there is in existence the policy of dismissing all those who do not desire to remain for Communion. Some comparative statistics for the year 1964 should serve to illustrate the point. At the 8:00 A.M. Communion services for the months of January, February and March 1964, there was a total attendance of 623; of this number, 461 took Communion, a difference of some 162 members, or approximately 25%. In the 10:15 A.M. services for a comparable period, there was a total attendance of 753, while only 444 took Communion. This results in a difference of 309, or a loss of approximately 45%.

Reccomendation - It is the suggestion of the Finance Committee, that - with the exception of special, seasonal services - the sacrament of Communion be included as an integral part of the service of worship. To facilitate this inclusion, it is reccomended that attempts be made to shorten the worship service.

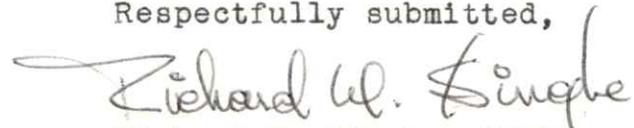
2 - The second possibility considered was that of shortening the 10:15 A.M. service of worship. Statistics reveal that since this measure has been instituted at the 8:00 A.M. services, attendance has increased appreciably. For comparable 1963 - 1964 periods - January thru March - total attendance at the 8:00 A.M. service has increased by some 24%, while a decrease of 12% was noted at the 10:15 A.M. service for a like period.

Reccomendation - In light of the foregoing figures, it is the suggestion of the Finance Committee that consideration be given to the possibility of shortening the 10:15 A.M. service of worship,

with the anticipated result being an increase in attendance.

It should be noted that the preceding reccomendations - while the result of lengthy discussion and deliberation - are not binding, but are brought forth for the consideration and action of the Church Council.

Respectfully submitted,


Richard W. Single, Treasurer