

THE UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF BALTIMORE, MD
SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2008
MINUTES OF MEETING

The Council President, Harvey Jacob, called the meeting to order at 12 noon.

The opening prayer was offered by Rev. Cathy.

A motion was made by Darlene Waters to accept the minutes of the January 27, 2008 Annual Congregational Meeting as written. Motion seconded by Olga DeBloom. All in favor.

We show \$30,575 in operating expenses over income through October 31st. Income will improve during the months of November and December, therefore we expect the year end picture will be as projected in our budget, (-\$26968), or somewhat better.

Harvey contacted the Higgins Company, who restored our stained glass windows, to negotiate a possible discount since the protective glass installed on the large front window was not the color we specified. He has not heard back from them yet.

Our Church's 135th anniversary events. the picnic, dinner dance and octoberfest, yielded an overall profit of \$3034.

Our CEG stock has dropped in value during the year from \$23,750 to \$6125. The total amount of all our funds, operating and investments, is \$215,091.

Carol Rowell made a motion to accept the financial report and was seconded by Darlene Waters. All in favor.

The proposed budget for 2009 was presented. In the upcoming year the Christian Education Department's accounting will be combined with the Church's. A small increase in compensation for the church organist, Rob Gundlach, and the custodian, Paul Polasky, is reflected in the 2009 budget. Reverend Oatman's salary, housing allowance and auto expense stipend is to remain the same as this (2008) year. Funds have been added for an interim pastor while Rev. Cathy is taking a 3 months sabbatical. The Secretary's pay is being held the same, as she has been employed by the church less than a year. Upon review of the last 12 months, other revenue and expense items have been adjusted up or down as warranted. A list of some capital equipment and improvements desired has been added to the bottom of the last page of the proposed budget. A motion was made by Calvin Gundlach to accept the budget as presented and seconded by Millie Wirsing. All in favor

Cissy Funk is chairing a Fundraising Committee. They are planning a family Bingo night in January with food for sale and donated prizes. Under the leadership of Nancy Gray and Cathy Fifield swing dance classes will be starting in late December or early January. The classes will be instructed by Mr. John Butler and will be held in the Christian Ed. Building gym. A suggestion was made that we have another Octoberfest in the future as the last one was very successful due to so many people helping.

Several improvements have been done to our facilities this year. In addition to having the large front window renovated, the offices, hallway & quiet room have been recarpeted and tile flooring was installed in the narthex. A large section of heating system piping also required replacement. There are many other improvement and maintenance upkeep items that need to be accomplished to the church building and other things that we would like to do to improve the appearance of the church. Among the things that we feel a need to do is the repainting of the sanctuary. A suggestion of was made that we get an estimate for this work. A stairway chair lift, a new ice machine, relighting and repair of the clock & bell tower are other items on the wish list.

Harvey suggested that a Christian Education Building Committee be formed to continue our quest to find a suitable, profitable use for this building. Harvey is willing to chair this committee.

A slate of Church Council Members for the year of 2009 was presented to the Congregation.

Members to serve two years:

Harvey Jacob Dale Sanders
Diane Borkman Barbara Matthew

Members to serve one year:

Clarence Rowell Nancy Gray
Calvin Gundlach Olga De Bloom
Laraine Jones Mildred Funk

The Congregation accepted, with a show of hands, the slate of Council Members as presented. It was affirmed that the Council President would fill vacancies by appointment.

Rev. Cathy's Comments: Rev. Cathy discussed her upcoming sabbatical. During her sabbatical, the months of June, July and August, the Pastor will be studying the Emerging Church Movement along with other subjects to gain some fresh insights to bring back to our church. One of her concerns is seeking ways to attract young people to today's church. Rev. Cathy, Lynn Sanders and Robert Gundlach have been attending seminar sessions at Lancaster Seminary entitled "Enlivening Worship and Music for the Small Church". These monthly sessions will continue through May. They feel these continuing sessions are very worthwhile and have already brought some new ideas to our church. Reverend Cathy also discussed the importance of keeping up the appearance of the church building so we project a positive image.

There being no other current business, Darlene Waters made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Carol Rowell. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 12:50 after recital of the Lord's prayer.