

The regular meeting of the Church Council of the United Evangelical Church was held on January 4, 1977, with the following persons in attendance: John Bond, Ernest Jones, Louis Parker, Jr., Louis Oberlander, Marie Voelker, George Sauer, Randy Schmitt, George Tuerk, Carole Weidel, Debbie Bauersfeld, Robert Gundlach, Robert Jackson, Lynn Stinchcomb, and Penny Sullivan.

President George Tuerk called the meeting to order, and Pastor Hengen opened the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes for the month of December were read by Randy Schmitt and approved as read.

Report of Committees:

Financial Report--It was reported that adequate funds were collected to cover the costs of providing poinsettias for Christmas. Mr. Jones said that the check for \$1500 to cover the remainder of our budget allotment for the Conference had been made out but not mailed. Mr. Oberlander questioned why the check had been made out, in view of the discussion of the matter held at the December meeting. Mr. Jones said that the money had been budgeted and should therefore be paid. The matter was tabled, to be brought up again under "old business."

Property Committee--Mr. Sauer reported that some Church property had been destroyed, apparently by children without adult supervision. Some of the items involved were pilferage of the janitor's closet, fluorescent lights, and organ tubes. Mr. Sauer also said that lights were being left on in the building overnight, and that the janitor was being asked to report whenever he finds this is happening. Miss Weidel suggested that, in order that the Church School building be locked after the Church School hour, those children remaining in the nursery while their parents attend church might be brought to Friendship Hall. The Pastor pointed out that any noise made by the children would carry upstairs and disturb worship. Since it was not possible to pinpoint the source of the damage, Mr. Tuerk said that the supervisors of the various organizations would be asked to provide more supervision of the youngsters. Mr. Sauer reported that the malfunctioning toilet in the Church School building had been repaired, and that he would see that the timer on the office heating system would be repaired or replaced.

Music Committee--Pastor Hengen reported that two parties for the members of the choirs were held. Robert Gundlach thanked the Council for the funds provided for the party for the children's choir.

Regarding the formation of committees for the 1977 Council, Mr. Tuerk said that he had made assignments based on the areas he believed to be the principal interests of the Council members. Some members of the congregation had also been given committee assignments in order that the congregation have some representation and voice in the various committees.

On the matter of obtaining a financial secretary, it was pointed out that hiring a professional would be expensive. Ernest Jones had served long and well in that office, but he had asked to be relieved of the responsibility. Mr. Tuerk asked Robert Jackson about the possibility assuming the position, and Mr. Jackson agreed.

Mr. Schmitt said that Pastor Hengen had questioned whether the Financial Secretary must be a member of the Council, since the position makes the holder an officer of the Council. He said that our Constitution required that the person be a member of the Council. Mr. Tuerk pointed out that under that provision, we would not be able to hire a professional. Mr. Parker motioned that Robert Jackson be appointed Financial Secretary. Mr. Schmitt seconded the motion, and it was carried. Mr. Jackson asked that his name not be on the checking account, and it was agreed that such an arrangement could be worked out.

Finance Committee--Mr. Schmitt brought out that some changes were necessary regarding the signatures on the checking account. William Single had asked that his name be removed. Mr. Parker said that the form could be filled out with the officers' names changed as necessary. Mr. Sauer said that the titles were not necessary, but that the names were important.

Mr. Bond said that an amplifier in need of repair could be fixed at a low cost. Mr. Witzke had indicated previously that the amplifier would be costly to repair.

Ushering Committee--Mr. Parker brought up the matter of help with the Communion Service. William Voelker had previously suggested that since several members of the choir were also members of the Council, they might be asked to help with Communion. The Council agreed that this could be worked out.

Old Business:

Ed Myers had been in touch with Mr. Jones, and they had agreed to go over the books together. A report is to be made at the Congregational Meeting.

Mr. Jones moved that our \$1500 indebtedness to the Conference be paid. Mr. Schmitt seconded the motion. Mr. Jones said that we now have \$3000 more than we started with, though there was a deficit in the general fund. Mr. Jackson recalled the discussion of the December meeting concerning the "Wilmington 10." Mr. Tuerk asked the purpose and charge against the group, and the Pastor said that they were charged with arson. Mr. Sauer asked if any of our \$1500 would go to the defense fund, and Mr. Jones said that there was no way of knowing. Mr. Schmitt said that if we do not pay the \$1500, we will not actually register our disagreement with the defense fund. If we are expecting to be heard, then we should go to the meetings and make our points verbally. Mr. Tuerk pointed out that funds paid by the local churches pay for a variety of things, including the printing of resumes for churches looking for a pastor. Mr. Parker pointed out that the amount allowed in our budget was not our challenge goal. Since there was no further discussion, the motion was voted upon, resulting in 8 votes in favor, and 1 vote against the motion.

New Business:

Mr. Schmitt brought up the matter of our safe-deposit box. Mr. Jones said that according to the Constitution we must have one. He recommended that we change from Equitable Trust to American National, since we could get it there for free and because it was more easily accessible. Mr. Jones moved that we obtain a safe-deposit box at American National Bank. Mr. Parker seconded it, and the motion was carried.

Youth Group:

Lynn Stinchcomb asked if we needed anything painted. Mr. Parker said that the Church School needs painting. Mr. Sauer said that last year estimates for that job had been turned over to Sam Jones. Mr. Parker asked when the members of the Youth Group would do the painting, and the possibility of doing the work on a Saturday or Sunday was discussed. Mr. Tuerk was of the opinion that a schedule should be made, and that the Property Committee should decide the color and how much paint to purchase. Mr. Parker said that cracks in the walls needed to be spackled. Miss Weidel said that she would bring up the matter at the next Church School meeting so that a color could be chosen.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Hengen's monthly report for the month of December, 1976, included 3 baptisms, 2 weddings, 2 funerals, 9 counselling sessions, and 20 home and hospital visitations. A complete report is attached hereto.

Pastor Hengen said that our income was increasing, that the Young Adult Group was revitalizing, and that a group for widows and widowers was in the process of being formed. The Poinsettia Fund was successful, as was the Advent-Christmas worship series. Some lights in the chancel had been replaced, and a thank-you letter had been sent to Millie's son-in-law. Mr. Oberlander said that one light was still bad, and that the entire socket needs to be replaced by an electrician.

The Pastor was concerned about the development of future goals and objectives to be presented to the congregation at the January Congregational Meeting. Mr. Tuerk asked what action of the congregation was involved, to which the Pastor responded that the development of the goals to be reached by 1980 was up to the Council. At the congregational meeting, the people would act upon the recommendations of the Council. The congregation has already gone through a series of preparatory steps, so now the Council should be ready to make the goals. Mr. Parker said that since much preparatory work should be done by the committee, the Spiritual Committee would be the best one to handle the writing of the goals. Pastor Hengen said that since the Christian Education committee represents a cross-section of the congregation, in his opinion it would be the committee best suited to handle the responsibility. Mr. Tuerk suggested that the Christian Education Committee write the goals, with any Council member welcomed to attend. Pastor Hengen said that the Council must take action to create the goals, or else it will represent merely the Pastor's projections. Without the Council's input, the assignment will not fulfill its intended purpose. Mr. Parker said that that was the reason that it should be a project of the Council, with the members of the Christian Education Committee invited to attend. The Pastor also indicated that it would not be advisable to put off having the meeting to formally draft the goals and objectives. It was decided to hold a meeting of the Council on January 10, 1977, at 7:30 P.M. Members of the Christian Education Committee were to be invited.

There being no other business before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole P. Weidel

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Recording Secretary