

The winter meeting of the Congregation of the United Evangelical Church was held on February 18, 1977. The meeting was called to order by Council President George Tuerk and opened with a prayer by Pastor Hengen. There were 38 voting members in attendance.

The minutes of the Congregational meeting held on November 26, 1976, were read and approved as submitted.

Reports of Committees and Organizations:

Treasurer's Report--Randy Schmitt distributed copies of the financial report for 1976. He explained that we had finished the year in the black although a deficit existed in the general fund. The extra funds came from the Memorial Fund. There being no questions or comments, the financial report was approved as submitted.

President Tuerk informed the congregation that an appraisal on our buildings by the E. Eyring & Sons firm revealed that the replacement cost would be \$1,432,000+, and that the Church Council had authorized the insurance on our facilities to be increased to \$1.6 million. Additional insurance may be purchased if necessary after a complete evaluation on the buildings and contents. President Tuerk also informed the congregation that the Council had decided to keep the heat in the church school building at minimal levels, and that church school sessions would be held in Friendship Hall.

Auditing Committee--Edwin Myers reported that our books were in order, and he expressed appreciation to Ernest Jones for the service he has provided.

Church School--The financial report of the church school indicated a net gain for the year 1976 of \$165.32, making the balance for the church school \$4,161.68.

The Women's Guild--Among the items listed on the Guild's financial statement were gifts to the Girl Scouts, March of Dimes, Easter Lily Fund, Vacation Bible School, the Poinsettia fund, and the United Evangelical Church. Their total expenses for 1976 were \$2,964.57, leaving a balance in the Guild treasury of \$2,036.26.

The Ladies' Aid--Mrs. Emma Koehler read a letter in which she thanked Mrs. Myrtle DeVaughn, outgoing president, for her faithful service to the group. Mrs. Koehler also pointed out the following as accomplishments: donations to the lily fund, the Canton Happening, the Scouts, Homewood Home, and United Evangelical Church; participation in the World Day of Prayer; and the Sour Beef Supper. She also said that Mrs. Claire Hengen will be installed at the new president of the Ladies' Aid. The financial statement of the group showed a balance of \$1,968.15.

The Sewing Group--Mrs. Margaret Craig read the organization's report, which indicated the quantity of articles made for Baltimore City Hospitals and Fort Howard Hospital. The balance in the group's treasury was \$338.73.

Youth Group--Lynn Stinchcomb indicated a profit of \$460 from the sale of fruitcakes. She also stated that Paul Hengen would be on the pilgrimage to Guatemala.

Youth Service Group--Randy Schmitt read a report of the group, which will be marking its fourth anniversary in February. Attendance at the Youth Service ranges between

70 and 150 persons, and that the church school has been very supportive through their regular attendance. Mr. Schmitt recommended that each member of the congregation attend at least one of these services before deciding that the Youth Service is not to his liking.

Young Adults--Louis Parker, Jr. reported that the group was trying to re-form, and that an attempt is being made to increase attendance at the group meetings.

Choirs--Willoughby Myrick reported that the senior choir had received new choir folders. The children's choir has shown a 56% increase to 14 members. Thanks were expressed to Mrs. Borkman, Mrs. Rowell, Mrs. Goldburn, Mrs. Schmitt, and Mrs. Gundlach for their help with this group.

Scouts--Mr. Myers reported progress. Mr. Vernon Luckhardt has resigned as Scoutmaster, and Mr. Dale Sanders has taken his place.

Old Business:

Mr. William Single brought up the matter of Confirmation on Pentecost, which had been decided at the November 26th meeting. He made a motion to overturn the previous decision, and to return Confirmation to Palm Sunday. Mr. William Voelker seconded the motion. Included in the lengthy discussion which followed was the point that to change the Confirmation date for 1977 would critically shorten the instructional time for this year's class, and would thus necessitate a modification of the curriculum by Pastor Hengen. The vote on the motion was 20 to 16 in favor of Confirmation on Palm Sunday, 1977.

Ed Myers brought up the age limit for those children staying in the nursery during the late service. Miss Weidel stated that children above kindergarten age should not be staying but should be at worship with their families. By consensus it was decided to put a notice stating this rule in the Endeavor. Mrs. DeVaughn moved that the age limit be set at kindergarteners. Mrs. Margaret Weidel seconded it, and the motion was given unanimous approval.

Pastor's Report:

A copy of the Pastor's Annual Report is attached hereto. In addition to the items listed in his report, Pastor Hengen listed the following as accomplishments: the hunger fast, youth hunger projects, improvement in the Endeavor, new banners made, a successful Canton Happening, the Bicentennial Ball, a church school teachers' workshop, his acceptance into the Exchange Club of Highlandtown, and the formation of a Widows' and Widowers' Only group.

The goals for the congregation developed by the Christian Education Committee, and based upon the hopes and expectations stated by members of the congregation, were presented to the meeting. Mr. Myrick moved that the goals be accepted as set forth, with Mr. Parker seconding. Mr. Myrick and Mr. Parker both indicated that the goals were a summary of the ideas turned in on the sheets distributed in the church bulletins. Mr. Schmitt indicated that the development of stated goals and objectives for the congregation presented a viable way for us to succeed, and that a decision to move forward with them should not be put off. The vote on the motion to adopt the goals was 31 to 0 in favor of adoption.

There being no other business before the congregation, the meeting was adjourned. Pastor Hengen closed the meeting by leading the group in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole P. Weidel

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Recording Secretary

The regular meeting of the Church Council of the United Evangelical Church was held on March 1, 1977, with the following persons in attendance: Ernest Jones, Louis Parker Jr., George Sauer, Albert Witzke, Willoughby Myrick, Louis Oberlander, May Getz, Marie Voelker, Carole Weidel, George Tuerk, Randy Schmitt, Robert Jackson, and Rev. W. Scott Hengen, III.

Vice-President Louis Parker called the meeting to order, and Pastor Hengen opened the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes for the February meeting were approved as read.

Financial Report:

Mr. Sauer questioned the amount paid for fuel as indicated in the report. Mr. Schmitt said the amount indicated was for the January bills, which were paid in February. An amended report for January was also distributed.

The report for the month of February was approved as submitted.

Report of Committees:

Property Committee--It was reported that the Church School had not yet chosen the color(s) for the painting. Mr. Tuerk reported that we had saved 135 gallons of oil, amounting to over \$70, during the first week of our fuel conservation measures in the Church School building. He also mentioned some new equipment which could be installed with our present system to reduce oil consumption. Mr. Schmitt asked about additional controls so that the entire building does not have to be heated. Mr. Myrick said that the choir hymnal racks in the last row are in need of repair, and Mr. Sauer said that he would get them fixed.

Spiritual Committee--There was no report due to Mr. Bond's absence.

Ushering Committee--Mr. Oberlander questioned when the bells are to be rung for the mid-week services, and after some discussion it was decided that they should be rung at 7:30 and 8:00 P.M. Mr. Oberlander also asked about closing the balcony for those services. Putting the strap across the stairs does not prohibit anyone from going upstairs, but it does indicate a desire to have all worshippers on the main floor. Mrs. Getz commented on the good attendance for the Ash Wednesday service, and the Pastor suggested that attendance be double checked between now and Easter.

Youth Group--Mr. Jackson reported some personal property of the Youth Group was being damaged, including basketball rims and a pingpong table. Pastor Hengen said that the pingpong table had collapsed during a youth meeting. Mr. Jones said that one would have to hang from the basketball hoop in order to break it. Mr. Jackson said that the youth group had ordered new hoops.

Youth Service--Mr. Schmitt reported that a summary of "Superstar" had received a very good reception. The youth service will continue along the same lines.

Music Committee--An invitation by the Elmhurst College choir to appear at our church was not accepted due to the high costs involved. Mr. Myrick wants the choir to meet to discuss the types of music which the congregation wishes to have presented.

Fellowship Committee--Pastor Hengen said that he will announce the fellowship hour which follows the mid-week services. Mrs. Hengen has donated punch to be served to children during the fellowship hours.

Finance Committee--Mr. Schmitt reported that he had received the conference finance report. The names and signatures on our savings account were updated to include the following councilmen: Mr. Sauer, Mr. Jones, Mr. Tuerk, Mr. Schmitt, and Mr. Parker.

Christian Education Committee--Miss Weidel reported that the goals drawn up by the joint Church Council--Christian Education Committee had been accepted at the Congregational meeting, and these were posted in various places throughout the buildings.

Old Business:

Pastor Hengen read a letter from the Wicks Organ Company, indicating that the evaluation assessment value of our organ is \$43,389.48. Mr. Tuerk said that the binder for the insurance had been received, and that since we were more than 80% covered, we would be fully reimbursed for losses.

New Business:

Mrs. Getz asked permission to use the facilities for the daily Vacation Bible School. There was no objection. The dates for the school have not been set.

Mr. Sauer asked that the church ad in the yellow pages of the phone book be changed by deleting the name of Pastor Kitchen, and adding Pastor Hengen. The Pastor said that the telephone company had been contacted about the change.

Mr. Parker asked the Pastor to instruct people coming for baptisms to sit in the front on the right side, giving them easy access to the quiet room.

Because of a question by Mr. Sauer, it was decided to not have Holy Communion on Palm Sunday (the first Sunday in April). It will be celebrated on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter.

Pastor's Report:

The Pastor's report for the month of February 1977 included 1 baptism, 3 weddings, 3 funerals, 16 counselling sessions, 13 home and hospital visitations, and 2 professional consultations. A complete report is attached hereto.

The following accomplishments were listed by the Pastor:

1. Organ maintenance, including repair and tuning
2. Council requests about sales, increased attendance and hymn singing at mid-week services had been fulfilled

3. Programs for young adults and widows and widowers had been expanded
4. Larger offering envelopes have been ordered
5. Congregational meeting was held
6. Inventory questionnaire report was received and discussed
7. Memorial plaques from the Boy Scouts have been mounted in the church hall.

Pastor Hengen was concerned about finding 1 or 2 adults to serve as advisors for the Youth Group, since Arthur Block had decided to resign. The Pastor recommended that a young couple be challenged to serve, and he suggested that the Christian Education Committee help in the selection.

Pastor Hengen read a note received from Eden Theological Seminary, thanking the church for a contribution of \$200 made ^{through} the conference. He also presented transfer requests from Miriam Long and Anna Laukeman, from our church to Messiah. Mr. Jones moved that the transfer requests be granted. Mr. Parker seconded it, and the motion was carried.

The Pastor recommended that the same procedure be used to purchase lillies and hyacinths for Easter as was used at Christmas for poinsettias. He also requested that the Easter garden be eliminated because it would be in the way during the 3 hour service and during Holy Communion, and because it was not necessary for the Easter celebration. Mr. Parker moved that the garden be eliminated this year. Mr. Witzke seconded it, and the motion was carried with 2 negative votes. Mr. Jones said that he felt that the Pastor's request should have been discussed with the council before it was put in the Endeavor.

It was the consensus of the council not to bother with a church picture directory being done by Church Directories Unlimited.

Pastor Hengen asked if the council had received any comments on the letter regarding Confirmation. None was reported. The Pastor said that since the goals had been accepted, a move must be made to develop objectives to meet those goals. Mr. Parker suggested that the next regular council meeting be changed from Holy Week to April 12, with the meeting to work on objectives to be held the following Monday, April 18. The suggested change was accepted.

The General Synod of the United Church of Christ is to be held in Washington, D.C. during the July 4th weekend. The council agreed that it would be a good idea for Pastor Hengen to invite a friend of his from Penn Northeast Conference to present the message here that Sunday. Pastor Hengen said that volunteers were needed to assist with the synod meetings, and Mr. Tuerk said that the congregation should be made aware of the request for volunteers.

Over 50 hymnal memorials have been purchased but the books have not been bought. Mr. Parker said that Millie has kept a list in anticipation of the purchase of new hymnals. He moved that hymnal memorial funds be held in escrow until it is decided to purchase a completely new set, possibly the UCC hymnal. Miss Weidel seconded it, and the motion was carried.

Pastor Hengen showed a copy of the Yearly Report Book of all organizations as used by St. John's United Church of Christ. The council may discuss the publication of such a book for next year.

There being no other business before the council, the meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole P. Weidel

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Recording Secretary