

**THE UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF BALTIMORE, MD**  
**Church Council Meeting**  
**July 15, 2008**

The President, Harvey Jacob, called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

**Present:** Olga DeBloom, Bob Osburne, Dale Sanders, Cissy Funk, Ursula Jacob, Calvin Gundlach, Nancy Gray, Rev. Cathy Oatman.

**Devotion:** Olga DeBloom. Rev. Cathy lead the council in prayer for Margaret Schorr, Helen Weininger and John Matthew

**June Minutes:** The minutes from the June Council Meeting were approved as written.

**Financial Report:** Harvey reported that our finances are going along as expected. A separate account has been set up for income and expenses for the 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church. In June we paid bills that are due quarterly. Two of our CDs will be maturing in July. Harvey is looking into the possibility of moving the funds in order to receive a higher interest rate. Our budgeted benevolences are paid semi-annually, therefore we will be sending out checks for this purpose during the month of July. We collected \$616.00 for One Great Hour of Sharing and \$319.00 for Homewood Foundation which will be forwarded to them through Central Atlantic Conference along with our other budgeted benevolences. It was decided to send our \$800.00 semi-annual support for Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) directly to UCC in Cleveland rather than send it through Central Atlantic Conference. Since there was not enough money in the Youth's account for both counselors to accompany the youth on their trip to Knoxville, TN, Cathy Fifield paid the \$345.00 for her own way. Council voted unanimously to reimburse Cathy with money from the church's funds.

**Correspondence:** We received an acknowledgment letter from the NonProfit Centers Network for our membership renewal.

**Discussion:** The Communications Capital Group contacted Harvey with an offer to buy our Sprint contract. They proposed to pay us \$140000.00. Our contract with Sprint will continue for another 18 years and we will make considerably more money by retaining the contract. Dale made a motion that we turn down their offer which was seconded by Olga. All in favor.

On Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, Rev Cathy met with Molly Brown Koch, Elaine Whitman of Sidran Institute and Shela Drummond, Director, of Baltimore Community School Connections . They discussed programs for education and development of families and communities and the possible use of our school building in housing support facilities. These programs include parental involvement and dealing with issues such as school -community partnerships, quality of education, violence in schools, attendance, etc. Shela is interested in starting a pilot program in September. Rev. Cathy will write a concept paper and we need to develop a budget for converting our building for this type of use. The Weinberg Foundation and Struever Brothers, Eccles and Rouse Co. are two possible sources from whom to obtain grant money.

**To Do List:** Some of the items on the To Do List have been taken care of. The Adopt a Project List has not yet been done. Barbara Matthew and Harvey will work on that. We discussed whether to try cleaning the old ice machine or buy a new one. Dale talked about a new ice machine for \$1300 that makes 30 lbs. of ice, but we need one that can make 50 lbs. Dale and Bob will look into prices for a new ice machine.

**Property:** One of our air conditioner units is cycling too frequently. We will be calling a repair man. Garry Jacob is replacing the leaking pipes in the school building heating system. He installed a ceiling fan in Rev. Cathy's office. Nancy Gray will go shopping for a torchiere lamp for pastor's office as there is not enough light output from the ceiling fan fixture.

Rev. Cathy will send letters to people who donated money for the restoration of the windows in the sanctuary in regards to the wording on the plaques which will be placed on the window sills under each window and by the large front window. We would like to have this completed by September 21 for the dedication. Calvin mentioned a man from Sacred Hearts Church who may be able to replace the high burned out light bulbs in the sanctuary and will be contacting him to give us a price.

**Membership:** We are still sending out Connect First letters to new residents. The included tickets to the Visionary Arts Museum are being used.

**135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** Barbara Matthew is looking into a banner to be placed on the school building. A planning meeting for the October Fest was held last Sunday and everything is being taken care of. We are still looking for a German band.

**Christian Education:** The Youth Group will leave Wednesday night, the 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 12:30 AM. on their trip to UCC's National Youth Event where they will meet youth from all over the country.

**Calendar:** November 2nd will be the church concert.

**Ushering:** A suggestion was made to have a schedule for the various greeters to avoid confusion. Harvey is to talk to Lois Duvall. It was proposed that we have a one month rotation of greeters.

Clarence will be asked to make up a schedule for the ushers.

**Pastor's Report:** Visioning Committee has completed their round of small group meetings and reported the results to Rev. Cathy. Evaluation showed an increase in warmth of church, deepening in closeness to Christ. The meetings will start again in September. This time the groups will be open to anyone interested in talking about the suggestions that came out of the small group meetings. Some of the things mentioned repeatedly were elder ministry, membership (youth and young adults), faith education, music, etc. The groups will meet three to five times. The group will be concentrating on these areas and will meet in each other's homes.

Hymnals: Rob asked the choir members in regard to music. Most people want some new music and to also retain some of the old familiar hymns.

Our secretary, Dava, has now finished her 3 months probation period. Rev. Cathy asked Harvey to conduct her review and offer her the position as our permanent secretary.

Worship concerns: A mixer board is needed for the microphones and amplifier. Rob is looking into the cost for hearing devices which will be around \$1000. These devices can be used by hearing impaired persons and then left in the narthex. Nancy Gray will write something for the Endeavor listing some of the projects we wish to accomplish. Father Elias Mallon will come to preach at our church on October 5<sup>th</sup>. After the second service he will speak on Christian – Muslim relations. A lunch will follow after which we can ask questions.

Harvey made a motion to adjourn at 10 pm, which was seconded by Olga. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned after reciting The Lord's Prayer.