

THE UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF BALTIMORE, MD
Church Council Meeting
November 18, 2008

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

Present: Olga DeBloom, Barbara Matthew, Cissy Funk, Harvey and Ursula Jacob, Nancy Gray, Clarence Rowell, Calvin Gundlach, Reverend Cathy.

Devotion: Nancy Gray

Minutes: A motion was made by Olga DeBloom and seconded by Clarence Rowell to accept the minutes of the October meeting as written. All in favor.

Correspondence: Harvey read a letter from Sheila Helgerson, Executive Director of Earl's Place, thanking us for the \$622 which was collected during our concert celebrating the history of church music.

Financial Report: We show \$30575 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 or somewhat better. Harvey called Higgins & Associates who reconditioned the church's large front window. Since they did not use the bronze tinted glass we specified, we wanted to know if the amount paid as a down payment was to be considered payment in full for the work done. To date the call has not been returned. Clarence stated that he had read that when Constellation Energy Group is reorganized we will be required to redeem our 250 shares of stock at \$26.50/share. PACT gives the church \$100 per month. Next year we will be combining the monies from the School with the Church's which will require creating some new accounts in our financial record keeping and reporting system. Clarence moved to accept the financial report as presented, seconded by Calvin, all in favor.

Discussion: Nancy Gray found a teacher for the Monday night swing dance classes which will start on Monday, December 1st. The cost will be \$5 per person. Nancy, Cathy Fifield and others are planning to fix up the gym for the dance classes. Barbara Matthew will be looking into obtaining banners announcing the dance classes to the neighborhood. Nancy also got an estimate of \$5900 for replace all the windows in the gym. There are 10 windows and since they are at street level, the contractor said they would need to be replaced with safety glass. The windows are all odd sizes so they would have to be custom made. The council decided it would not be feasible to replace any windows at this time. There seems to be a mold problem under the stage which will have to be checked out. We discussed the possibility of getting rid of some of the excess older folding chairs. We could either sell them or give to a charity.

Membership: We are spending \$30 monthly with the firm 'Details Direct' for a list and mailing a welcoming card to 50 new resident's names each month. We are proposing to cancel this service because of the lack of hoped for results.

The possibility of conducting a Stewardship Campaign was discussed. We looked at some materials received from Reverend Cathy's family's home church in Olmsted Falls, OH, that brought home the fact that church stewardship is not just giving one's money to the church, but also giving one's time and talents.

Altar: Ursula has asked Dava to go back to using the old altar flower chart. The one we used this past year is not efficient. Carl Price and volunteers will be decorating the sanctuary for Christmas on November 29th.

Fellowship/Christian Education: Our Youth Group is making plans to go to the Lyric Theater on February 7 to see "Jesus Christ Superstar". The tickets are \$55 per person for anyone who wishes to go with them. To date the Youth Group has \$334 in funds which along with money earned from their cookie sale can be used to help defray the cost for the youth to attend.

Calendar: On December 6 the Youth Group will be having a 'lock in' sleep over. During this time they will be baking Christmas cookies. On January 6th a Bingo is planned to benefit the chair lift fund.

Music: During Advent we will be incorporating some new ideas into our services.

Pastor's Report: In January there will be two visioning groups starting for youth and young adults. They will be sharing information learned at the "Enliven Worship and Music for the Small Church" at Lancaster Seminary. Reverend Cathy talked about the use of hand chimes. This year's Thanksgiving Eve service will be at Patterson Park Baptist Church at 7 pm. Pastor asked that some of us bring homemade cookies for the fellowship hour following the service. We are also asked to bring non-perishable food items for the Food Bank. The offering collected during the Thanksgiving service will go to health care for the homeless. There will be only one service at 10:30 am on Tinsel Sunday, December 14th.

New Business/Old Business: None

Adjournment: Olga DeBloom made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Clarence Rowell. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 pm after the recital of the Lord's Prayer.