

**United Evangelical Church
Council Meeting Minutes
Of Meeting Held August 9, 2005**

Attendance: Rev. Cathy, Ursula Jacob, Harvey Jacob, Pat Meyers, Elaine Kimos, Calvin Gundlach, Lori Betch, Rose Marie Jefferson, Rebecca Orendorff, Lynn Sanders

The time of devotion was presented by Calvin.

Introduction of Guests – Rev. Jim Bell of the UCC Association

The minutes of the July 12, 2005 Church Council meeting were read and accepted (Ursula Jacob motioned to approve the minutes; seconded by Rose Marie Jefferson – accepted by all).

Financial Report: Harvey indicated that, thus far in July, we have taken in \$2,500 more than our expenses. Expenses were down a little in July though. We may make it through Fall without going into our savings account. We have had to tap savings one time this year so far.

Regarding Rev. Cathy's compensation (stipend) – Compensation Guidelines were reviewed by Harvey to come up with the compensation package. Our Pastor is paid less than the UCC Guidelines. Rev. Cathy will receive \$1,200/month in addition to existing salary for the balance of 2005. The additional outlay works out to be about \$700 per month. A new budget will be created for 2006 and we hope to have a better idea of where we are heading financially. Harvey proposed for the \$1,200/month additional income to be offered to Rev. Cathy for the remainder of 2005. Ursula made motion to accept Harvey's proposal and Calvin seconded the motion – accepted by all.

Correspondence: Rev. Cathy received an email from Barbara Matthew. Lori shared it with the Council - the message thanked the Council for their efforts and unwavering dedication to the research on the Parsonage and Christian Education building.

Property: Bill has just gotten out of the hospital so he was not present but he sent the property report with Pat. We thank him for his dedication even while ill and the Council is keeping Bill in their prayers.

Presto Electric is scheduled to come August 11 or 12 to give an estimate to replace all of the flood lights above the altar. Fick Bros. Roofing Co. will be coming to extend one of the downspouts so it empties properly instead of emptying all the rain water from the sanctuary roof onto the choir room roof where it now leaks when it rains hard. Fick Bros. will also check the flat roof for damage and repair as necessary. ARCO Concrete Co came the week of August 1 and replaced the four

blocks of concrete that were broken. Bill had surmised that the leak in the parsonage basement may have been due to the broken block right outside the walk and when the crew broke the block, they uncovered a three-foot sinkhole. All of the broken concrete from that block was used to fill the sinkhole. Lead-tech will be coming to the parsonage on August 12 to inspect for lead paint. Bill Meyers and Dale Sanders fixed the caulking and did some painting to the window sills and doorframes and Pat Meyers, Joan Stinchcomb, Lori and Mark Betch did some extra cleaning and ceiling touch-ups. Bill also thanked the Council members and friends that showed up previously to help with the first cleaning of the window sills.

Membership: Elaine is proceeding as usual with visitor bags and cards. One visitor bag delivered this month.

Altar: Ursula - status quo – nothing new to report.

Fellowship: Pat will re-start the Coffee House September 18. Another pancake breakfast is being planned for October 1. Fund-raising ideas need further discussion.

Spiritual: Calving - status quo – nothing new to report.

Music: Lynn indicated that Rev. Cathy, Rob Gundlach and she will meet on August 10 to develop the worship format questionnaire with the hope of having it out to the Congregation by the end of August.

Ushering: Julie was not present. Lori indicated that we do have folks volunteering and we did start asking children – ages 10 or older – to help with collecting offering.

Christian Education: Rebecca indicated that the Children's time of worship will start back up on September 18. September 18 is Rally Day.

Rev. Cathy's Report: The first discussion regarding the General Synod's resolution on equality in marriage (same-sex marriages) was lead by Rev. Lucy Brady. This discussion's results showed that more conversation is needed on the history of marriage and scientific research on what it means to be homosexual – before any kind of voting could take place.

Rev. Cathy recommended, and the Council agreed, recognizing the need for further discussion, the blessing of same sex unions will not be performed here at United. Any future discussions on this topic will need to be initiated by the Congregation. Elaine made a motion to accept this recommendation and was seconded by Ursula – accepted by all.

Rev. Bell indicated that most of the positive results of the God Is Still Speaking initiative are families joining various churches – younger families consisting of a husband, wife and children. God Is Still Speaking includes ALL people but the

main conversations thus far have revolved around homosexuality. Open and affirming includes all genders, races, handicapped, non-handicapped, heterosexual and homosexual peoples. There have been over 250,000 'hits' on the UCC website from folks looking for a church.

Rev. Amy Sens approached Rev. Cathy about a volunteer position, on behalf of UEC, to reach out to the young adult people who are 'un-churched'. Amy has prepared a proposal including 4 inner city churches. Lynn motioned to accept Amy's proposal and Rose Marie Jefferson seconded – accepted by all.

Pastoral Care – 7 visits, 7 phone calls, 4 consults, 2 weddings, 1 funeral.

Old/New Business: Elaine began the discussion focusing on the parsonage situation first. Rev. Jim Bell joined the meeting to discuss questions:

- If renting, our insurance does cover renting the parsonage building.
- What is the church's liability if we have tenants? The renters are liable to have tenant's coverage of their contents.
- Do we have a tax liability because we are renting for income? Rev. Bell confirmed that we do not have a tax liability – our income will balance our losses. This is documented in UBICT – Unrelated Business Income Tax guidelines.
- Do we need a lawyer to review the contract? Rev. Bell will have a Conference judge review the contract but he feels that we are not in jeopardy.

The Management Company has been given a list of church activities and the Council has given the Management Company a list of strictures to be included in the rental contract that tenants sign. We do not plan to participate in Section 8 housing. There will be a one-year lease resulting in positive cashflow for our church. The year will allow a period of reflection time for UEC until a permanent decision is placed before the Congregation for voting.

Elaine proposed monthly conversations between Council and Congregation to serve as an informational vehicle of communicating on the parsonage and the Christian Education building. There will be a two-week notification period prior to each meeting. We have had one such conversation so far. Our second conversation is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 25. The conversation will not take place in between services. It is the Council's feeling that there is a constraint on time during this timeframe and discussion between services has the potential for stress and un-rest to be carried into our 10:30am service.

The next special meeting to discuss the Christian Education building is scheduled for Wednesday, September 21 at 6:30pm with Bill Caltrider and Rev. David Casey. We will be contacting a Conference lawyer for issues concerning our Christian Education building.

No further old or new business was brought up for discussion. The meeting adjourned at 9:40pm with the Lord's Prayer.

