

United Evangelical Church
Council Meeting Minutes
Of Meeting Held January 10, 2006

Attendance: Rev. Cathy, Harvey Jacob, Pat Meyers, Calvin Gundlach, Lynn Sanders, Nancy Parker-Gray, Clarence Rowell, Rebecca Orendorff, Ken Pate and Nancy Spirko

The time of devotion was presented by Rev. Cathy.

Introduction of Guests - There were no guests in attendance.

The minutes of the November 8, 2005 Church Council meeting were accepted as read with page 4 inserted and the minutes from the December 13, 2005 meeting were accepted as read.

Financial Report: Calvin reported we ended the year of 2005 with a \$16,685.00 deficit. An audit is planned for next week. Harvey stated in December 2005 we received \$23,000. This was encouraging. However, he still had to transfer \$10,000.00 from the savings account into the checking account to cover some bills. We received a bill from the attorney in the amount of \$4,896.00 that must be paid. Harvey mentioned he has been hearing statements that we are out of danger financially due to the pending sale of the Christian Education Building. As this is not the case, he will be writing an article for the *Endeavor* enlightening everyone that the sale of the Christian Education Building and the sale of the Lombard Street property should have nothing to do with the day to day expenses of the church. Those expenses should be covered by the weekly and special donations of the congregation. The sale of the Lombard Street property was discussed. It was discussed to perhaps lower the price again. However, it was decided to wait until the contract with the realtor expires and then list the property with another realtor who can better market the property. The same goes with the Parsonage, we will wait until the existing contract expires and search for a more aggressive realtor. The sale of the Christian Education Building is pending until January 17, 2006, when the developer will be meeting with St. Brigit's to discuss the parking situation.

Harvey stated this will definitely be his last year as Treasurer. Cal would also like someone to take over the Financial Secretary position.

Rev. Cathy suggested we look for a Treasurer-in-Training and Financial Secretary-in-Training. This would allow the persons to see what the positions entail.

Correspondence: A Thank You note was received from the Church Secretary Peggy for the Christmas gift and a Thank You note was received from the Pate Family for the memorial remembering their brother and uncle, Everett E. Voekler. Correspondence was received from the Chesapeake Association inviting anyone that wants to attend to their Leadership Dinner on January 22, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's UCC on Rolling Road. A recognition award was received from the "*God is Still Speaking*" campaign thanking us for the share that was purchased.

Property: As stated last month, Ken Pate will be chairing the property committee. Rev. Cathy received an e-mail from Sprint stating they would like to add another 3 antenna's to the existing ones and replace the shelter that is on the roof of the Christian Education Building. A letter was sent to Sprint in November, 2005, asking for the existing contracts and the agreement that was signed with Black Dot that was to reduce the monthly payment we receive from Sprint from \$1,200.00 to \$900.00. No response was received from Sprint. The original contract was signed on December 23, 2001 and was supposed to be in effect for 5 years, which would be until December 23, 2006. Harvey and Clarence volunteered to get copies of the contracts and get a list of questions together and call Sprint. The broken water fountains were discussed again. Ken will check with Howard Carter on the purchase of new water fountains. The Building Committee is scheduled to meet next Sunday after worship. Some items to be discussed are: the Parsonage, the sale of the Lombard Street property and the sale of Christian Education Building.

Membership: As Elaine is no longer on Council, we need a membership chairman.

Altar: Ursula is no longer on Council, however, a message was sent with Harvey that Ursula will continue to chair the altar committee, unless someone else would like to chair the altar committee. If someone else decides to chair the altar committee, she will continue to assist on the committee. The altar committee consists of Rose Marie Jefferson, Millie Wirsing and Carol Rowell. Each person on the committee accepts the responsibility of the altar for one month at a time. The duties include making sure the communion supplies are ordered, ordering the flowers for each Sunday and special occasions like Easter and Christmas, maintaining the schedule for the candles, making sure the cloths are clean and ironed, decorating the altar for Fall, etc.

Fellowship: Pat stated she had nothing new to report other than the Coffee Hours will be starting again in February and the sign up sheet is in the back of the Church. As a result of the Wish List placed in the bulletins, \$80.00 was donated, \$200.00 was donated from the Choir and another \$50.00 check was received. Pat will purchase the coffee urns.

Spiritual: Calvin stated he confirmed that the Maryland Heritage Vocal Ensemble will be singing on Sunday, May 21, 2006.

Music: Lynn stated she had nothing new to report.

Ushering: As Lori was not present there was nothing to report. However, it was discussed we need a Head Usher, Clarence volunteered to accept that position. Security was also discussed as a result of the recent robbery of a church in Harford County while the Sunday service was being conducted. It was decided that someone will be positioned at the back of the church during the service. If the occasion arises, Rev. Cathy will ask everyone to keep calm and remain in their seats until the ordeal is over. There should be no heroism.

Christian Education: Rebecca had nothing to report.

Rev. Cathy's Report: The deadline for the articles for the *Endeavor* is January 15, 2006 to Barbara Matthew. The leadership banquet was previously discussed. The packing day for the Sunday School is Saturday, January 14, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. for anyone that is interested. Boxes are needed. Rev. Cathy received an e-mail request for housing from a student named Stephanie Shumate from Florida State. Ten students have volunteered to give up their spring break to come to Baltimore and work for the Boys and Girls Club of Maryland. Rev. Cathy will verify that this is legitimate. It was discussed letting the students stay in the Parsonage. However, we are not sure if and when the Parsonage may be rented. It was also discussed to ask to congregation if they would like to house one or two of the students during their stay. A letter was received from the insurance company discussing emerging professional liability concerns, such as sexual harassment. Anyone that works in the church will have to sign a disclosure statement. Rev. Cathy distributed a rough draft of a sexual exploitation ministerial conduct and youth protection plan for the church. Several members of the congregation assisted in preparing this plan. Rev. Cathy asked each member of Council to read the plan and next month we will discuss and decide whether to adopt the plan. Also, as part of the plan there needs to be a process for reporting put into place. A volunteer coordinator was discussed at last month's Council meeting and Rev. Cathy received some correspondence for a one day seminar on the subject to be held on Saturday, February 18, 2005 at St. John's UCC from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The cost of the seminar is \$79.00. Rev. Cathy would also like one other person to attend the seminar. Council agreed to send Rev. Cathy and one other person. As discussed above the Building Committee will be meeting on Sunday after worship. The items to be discussed are changing the realtors for the Parsonage and the Lombard Street property, the Sprint contract, and the sale of the Christina Education Building. Agenda items were discussed for the Congregational Meeting to be held on January 29, 2006. Along with the regular items, Security will be added and the real estate issues.

Pastoral Care - 7 visits, 6 phone calls, 2 consults

Old Business: The controversial gate at the end of the handicap ramp was discussed. As discussed the gate is not a welcoming image for the church. A motion was made, seconded and accepted by Council to remove the gate and put another lock on the door.

New Business: Election of Officers. The following were elected to the following positions:

President - Lori Betch
Vice President - Lynn Sanders
Treasurer - Harvey Jacob
Financial Secretary - Cal Gundlach
Recording Secretary - Nancy Spirko

The Ladies Organization will be having a corned beef and cabbage lunch so February 11, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. has been set aside as the clean-up day for the kitchen. Anyone interested in helping, please come.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m. with the Lord's prayer.