

United Evangelical Church
Congregational Meeting Minutes
January 29, 2006

Call to Order- The Meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM by Lori Betch, Council President.

Opening Prayer- The Prayer was given by Rev. Cathy.

A quorum was present.

Reading of the Minutes- The minutes from the November 27, 2005 Congregational Meeting were distributed along with the Agenda and 2005 Annual Report. A motion was made, seconded and approved by the congregation to approve the minutes from the November 27, 2005 Congregational Meeting.

Financial Report- The financial report was given by Harvey Jacob. Harvey reported that 2005 ended with \$16,500 in expenses over income. This was a little better than projected indicating that giving is up. However, he added that insurance and utility costs have risen and we have already had to take \$10,000 out of savings to cover such expenses. Harvey noted that heating the whole Sunday School building with the current cost of gas is a significant drain. We also paid \$4,900 in attorney fees. He reported that we will need to transfer additional funds from savings to get us through to Easter.

In response to the high utility costs, Carol Borkman said that the third floor of the school building is quite warm and that the thermostats were probably set to high. Sam ?? asked if the heat in the building could be turned down at night. Lori Betch noted that Ken Pate, the new Property Chair, will be meeting with Bill Meyers to discuss the thermostats and Ken added that he would go over to check them today.

Old Business- Lori noted that the church organizations reports are printed in the 2005 Annual Report for review. She went on to report the status of the school building sale. She said that we have contract with JBL Contracting, Inc. to develop the upper three floors of the building. The contract does have a clause which allows them to secure parking. At this time, the contract has been extended for a second time pending a decision from the Archdiocese about whether the developer can have six of St. Bridgids parking spaces. Rev. Cathy reported that the Building Committee feels that the developer is still very interested in the building and they are working hard to solve the parking issue. She has heard some people suggest that we sell the whole building so that a developer could use the bottom floor for parking. She noted that there are pluses and minuses to both scenarios. Keeping the first floor, for example, does give the church some say in the condo association about what goes on in the building. Darlene Waters asked if we will get to keep the Sprint towers and Rev. Cathy told her yes. Bill Single noted that by selling the whole building we would consequently increase the selling price of the building. Jim Tallagsen suggested that we sell the whole building so that we don't

have any more costs associated with it. An unofficial vote was taken of how many people at the meeting thought we should sell the whole building. Of the 65 people present, 37 thought we should. Based on that, Bob Osburne asked if we could put the building back on the market for additional offers for the whole building. Harvey Jacob reiterated that we have a signed contract at this time.

There was also discussion about using the Parsonage for the Sunday school. Diane Borkman expressed the need for the Sunday school classes to have separate space when it was mentioned that Sunday school could use the Fellowship Hall for class. It was then reported that a contract has been signed to rent the Parsonage starting February 1st. The lease is for one year. Rev. Cathy said that Fellowship Hall could possibly house the Sunday school temporarily.

Lori also discussed the Lombard Street property that we are asking \$129,900 for. Two offers have been made on the house. One the person did not qualify for financing and the other was not a reasonable offer. Basically, the buyer was asking us to participate in the financing. The offer came out to about \$111,000.

Ken Pate asked when the realtor's contract was up and Harvey Jacob suggested that we list the house with a more aggressive realtor. The building committee will discuss this and decide whether or not they should change realtors when the contract is up.

New Business- Janet Pate thanked everyone who has volunteered to participate in the Tableau. There are just two parts open at this time. Rehearsal will be the Tuesday before the Tableau. Help with hair and makeup is needed.

In light of a robbery incident that took place during a church service in Belair, Rev. Cathy raised the issue of church security. She explained that if something similar should happen at our church that all should remain calm and give the robbers what they want so that no one gets hurt.

Carol Borkman raised a question about how we should handle the door to the Sunday school building being propped and left unlocked.

Pastor's Comments- Rev. Cathy stated that the sale of the Sunday school building is not taken lightly. She asked that people continue to ask questions and communicate their concerns to their council members. She noted that in communication we remain community.

Comments from the Membership- Olga DeBloom asked if the water coolers were coming and she was told they should be here soon. A motion was made and seconded and all agreed to end the meeting.

Closing Prayer- The Lord's Prayer

Adjournment- The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Jubilee will provide recommendations regarding development. Thus far – 4 architects have looked at building and proposals from same are due in mid-January 2007. Jubilee is familiar with acceptable changes to allow church to retain tax credits, etc.

New Business:

Visioning study group is discussing difficult decisions needed in our church. Congregation-wide activities to be offered early 2007. Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) – Rev. Cathy spoke on OCWM. Rev. Jim Bell has been terminated as Association Minister. Conference leadership believes focus is needed on only the larger churches with smaller churches being sold and monies coming into the Conference. Rev. Bell did not buy into this belief and was terminated. Churches are withholding monies from the Association and placing monies into escrow until faithful dialogue takes place. Council is bringing recommendation to Congregation that OCWM funds be placed in escrow and withheld from Conference at this time. Clarence Rowell motioned to place funds into escrow; seconded by Ursula Jacob; all in favor.

Discussion took place regarding changing November meeting time. Carol Rowell motioned to change bylaws to have November meeting on third Sunday of November vs. fourth Sunday; seconded by Joan Stinchcomb; all in favor.

2007 Council members were introduced. Isabel Parker motioned to accept new Council members; seconded by Jim Tallagsen; all in favor.

Nancy Parker-Gray
Clarence Rowell
Dale Sanders
Laraine Jones
Barbara Matthew
Harvey Jacob
Ursula Jacob
Olga DeBloom
Bob Osburne
Howard Carter
Ellen Carter

Kathy Young suggested inviting Casa to one of our Christmas Eve services. Rev. Cathy to approach Casa.

John Price motioned to adjourn at 1:10pm; seconded by Ed Willis; all in favor.