

THE UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
Congregational Meeting
November 16, 2014

President Cissy Funk called the meeting to order at 11:27 a.m.

Rev. Cathy offered the opening prayer.

Minutes: The Minutes from the January 26, 2014 meeting were handed out and reviewed. A motion was made by Karrie Hogan to accept the minutes and was seconded by Joanne Johnson. All voted in favor.

Financial Report:

- We are looking at a \$34,000 deficit this year. The reason the deficit is higher than projected in the 2014 budget is because giving is down. Bill Voelker was one of churches largest contributors. We have also seen an increase in gas and electric, higher repair requirements with building and equipment including the boiler maintance.

Question: What about the chair lift? How much do we still need to collect?

Answer: We still have a \$1,500 balance.

Presentation of Proposed 2015 Church Budget:

- The proposed budget for 2015 is reflective of what we can expect from this year. It includes a 3/4 time Reverend, a 24 hour a week secretary, and a 15 hour a week janitor.
- Our liquid funds are \$60,586.99 with Bay Bank, and \$60,801.71 with Cornerstone Fund.
- We are still in negotiations with AT&T regarding cell towers on our Church School roof. They have extended their interest for another year while they prepare, hopefully, to enter into a contract with us.

Bill Single: We can't keep voting in negative budgets. Can we look into cutting more? Are we waiting for AT&T to bail us out?

Rev. Cathy: In order to cut the budget any more we would have to cut personnel.

Cissy Funk: We worked very hard with this budget. We are doing the best we can with what we have.

Carol Rowell: On a positive note, we have more people in this meeting then we have in recent years.

Cissy Funk: We are not the only church that is having financial issues.

Kim Pizzini: I heard they sold part of St. Brigid's property?

Cissy Funk: They did.

Pam Georgiadis: We are now handicap friendly. Can we get the electricity in the kitchen updated so we can rent out the hall to bring money in?

Rev. Cathy: We are looking into the rental of the hall to non-profit organizations. We have the big screen TV that can be used for meetings but we need to update the wireless connections and the sound system.

Bill Single: How did we do with Oktoberfest?

Cissy Funk: We still don't have the exact figures in. We did make \$1,000 from Bingo and we helped a family in need with a small donation.

Rev. Cathy: We are still looking into starting a child care center here. It has been very hard dealing with MD State Childcare services and State of MD inspectors.

A call went up for anyone who has any idea's to please come forward.

A motion was made by Carol Borkman to accept the Proposed Budget and was seconded by Joanne Johnson. Most voted in favor.

Pastor's Report:

- I want to commend this Council who took the steps to reduce a full time Reverend to a 3/4 time Reverend. It wasn't easy for them to accept yet alone bring it to the congregation and pass it.
- There are churches that are closing. Messiah closed but "The Church On The Square" has opened.
- We need to be outside of this church doing ministry. That is what will keep us alive and in view of other possible members. We need to grow with the times. Jim Bell, my mentor, said we didn't lose members overnight so we won't gain members overnight either.

Election of Council and Endowment Committee Members: The Ballots for Council Members and Endowment Committee members are on the back of your Agenda.

- The 3 candidates for nomination for the Endowment Committee are; Howard Carter, Barbara Matthew and Clarence Rowell. A motion was made by Marge Hurd to accept the candidates as they are listed and seconded by Carol Borkman. All voted in favor.
- Of the six candidates up for re-election on the Church Council, two have been on the council for 3 terms but have agreed to serve another term. The candidates are; Diane Borkman, Marvin Fillmore, Cissy Funk, Pat Jenkins, Kim Pizzini, and Harry Rosenberger Jr. A motion was made by Carol Borkman to accept the candidates as they are listed and seconded by Karrie Hogan. All voted in favor.

Old Business: We are still waiting for ATT&T to buy space for cell towers on our roof.

New Business:

- Clarence Rowell requested Rev. Cathy to explain what's going on with Bill Voelker's bequest. Bill's daughter Carol Stoecker has contacted Rev. Cathy with an update. Because of the way it was set up, Carol inherits the money so she will be required to pay an inheritance tax on it. She will send it in 2 or 3 increments depending on how much she can claim as charitable donations per year. The first increment should be here in December, then in January, and we may see another in 2016.
- Bill Single asked if it was a bequest. Rev Cathy said no it was an Equity that totaled \$228,000 at its maturity.

Please don't leave feeling defeated! We are an alive and vibrant church who has celebrated 140 years with 140 good deeds! We will be fine if we all work together.

Adjournment/ Closing Prayer: Clarence Rowell made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Pam Georgiadis. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m. after the recital of the Lord's Prayer..

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane L. Borkman

(Recording Secretary)