

THE UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
Congregational Meeting
November 15, 2015

President Cissy Funk called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m.

Rev. Cathy offered the opening prayer.

Minutes: The Minutes from the January 25, 2015 meeting were handed out and reviewed. A motion was made by Trish Jefferson to accept the minutes and was seconded by Kim Pizzini. All voted in favor.

Financial Report:

- Diane Borkman presented the financial report and explained that this year we would be looking at an estimated \$23,000 deficit.
- We received another installment of \$70,000 from the estate of Bill Voelker and may receive a final payout in 2016. Even though we did lose money in the Endowment fund due to the dip in the market, as of yesterday we have risen to a total of \$284,301.
- We had some big repairs this year but they were repairs that needed to happen. We replaced the copier, the intercom system, the church school doors, and a new pump for the A/C unit.
- The Ladies Organization gave \$350 to move the piano into church, \$475 to tune and repair it and \$545 went towards the dolly it sits on. The church paid the \$280 for the dolly. They also gave \$1,000 to update the electric in the kitchen which was done this year.
- Ed and Cass Myers left the church \$15,000. We used some of that money to replace the church school doors and dedicated them to the Meyers because they were so active in church school and Boy Scouts in that building. Without this bequest we would be looking at a \$38,000 deficit.
- Diane explained that the council had a special meeting to go over the proposed budget carefully, line by line, and could not find a way to balance the budget short of doing away with a secretary, custodian, and making Rev. Cathy half time. If we put Rev. Cathy to half time we will lose her and we would need volunteers to do the secretarial and custodial jobs. Diane asked if anyone had any ideas because the council would love others to offer alternative options. Since nobody wants the church to close we need to find more revenue sources outside of individuals, or grow the church and how growing the church is everyone's responsibility not just the Pastors or the councils. We are all ambassadors for Christ.
- Please note that under cleaning supplies there is a \$0 and that is because Mr. Brooks buys them and will not let us reimburse him.

Presentation of Proposed 2015 Church Budget:

- The proposed budget for 2016 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 custodian.

- We are still waiting to hear from 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.

A motion was made by Carl Price to accept the Proposed Budget and was seconded by Kim Pizzini. Most voted in favor.

Proposed By-Law Change: Cissy Funk explained that we would like to make a change in the following:

Current By-Law - Article III--Administration

Church Council - A---Only such members are eligible for election as have attained the age of twenty-on and have been members in good standing for one year or more.

Proposed changes to By-Law

Church Council - A---Members eligible for election will ideally be twenty-one years of age or older, however exceptions will be allowed based on an individual's maturity level. 50% of council will have been members in good standing for one year or more.

Bill Single suggested that we add who would determine the maturity level. The proposed change was updated to read:

Proposed changes to By-Law

Church Council - A---Members eligible for election will ideally be twenty-one years of age or older, however exceptions will be allowed based on an individual's maturity level as determined by a majority vote of the council. 50% of council will have been members in good standing for one year or more.

The vote was 36 in favor of the change with 1 opposed. The proposed change passed.

Proposal to Begin Open and Affirming Process

Cissy Funk explained the council would like to start the process of becoming an Open and Affirming church which means open to and affirming of same sex loving couples. We would like to discuss this with everyone and get their thoughts. Rev. Cathy went up to her office so everyone would feel free to speak up without her there.

Member - I'm open to all but marriage.

Answer- That question would be part of this process. The UCC leaves it up to churches to decide regarding same sex weddings.

Member- I thought we were open and affirming, but what does that mean for everyone else?

Answer- This would change nothing for everyone else. All we would be doing is letting everyone know we accept everyone here.

Comment- I understand some people are worried about this but we are all children of God.

Member- What about marriage?

Answer- We would begin officiating over all marriages including same sex.

Member- If we advertise then others may not feel they are welcome here.

Answer- That isn't true because a lot of people, no matter their sexual orientation, look for churches that are open to all.

Comment- Everyone is who they are.

Comment- It's not a choice, it's how God made me.

Member- How long is the process?

Answer- There is no set time. It depends on the individual church and how they set the pace.

Information regarding the process was distributed. The vote was 27 in favor with 11 opposed. The proposal passed.

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; Diane Borkman, Harvey Jacob and Diane Price. A motion was made by Jen Borkman to accept the candidates as they are listed and seconded by Cissy Funk. All voted in favor.
- The six candidates up for election on the Church Council are; Jackie Bass-Johnson, Jennifer Borkman, Steven Jankiewicz, Trish Jefferson, Carl Price, and Lucy Wilkinson. A motion was made by Carol Borkman to accept the candidates as they are listed and seconded by Kim Pizzini. All voted in favor.

Pastor's Report: Rev. Cathy asks those who voted against O&A to PLEASE come to the meetings of scripture, prayer, and conversation. **Love one another in our differences.**

Old Business: St. Brigid's office is now in the church building. As for the parking lot, as long as the lot is open, park there.

New Business: No New Business.

Adjournment/ Closing Prayer: Cissy made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Lucy Wilkinson. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m. after the recital of the Lord's Prayer..

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane L. Borkman

(Recording Secretary)