

BOARD MEETING
Cherry Log Christian Church
November, 2013, 10:00 am

Members present: Lynn Barrett, Don Brewer, Caroline Carder, Dr. David Griffin, Jerry Johnson, Kristi Johnson, Sharon Meek, Ron Midkiff, Beth Roberts, Bill Thompson and Janet Tripp.

Opening prayer - Sharon Meek, followed by sharing of our prayer concerns.

Discipling Council Report – Beth Roberts

Most of the committees have been business as usual, but she would like to note the following:

One is the Arts Committee having the fellowship hall rather constantly showing works of our members, some of which have never been seen before. That is really exciting! They have done a good job. Some of the folks whose work was on display were timid about it and they got lots of feedback that was really special.

Another is the Membership Committee who has been so hard at work on the questionnaires on membership status which will help us to connect with each person in the congregation according to their commitment level.

The stewardship program this year has been extraordinary. Beth thanked Bill for being chair of the Stewardship Campaign.

Kristi asked about the Budget amount listed for Children and Youth. Beth realized that amount was a mistake and should be \$2445.00 rather than \$4775.00. This is the same as last year.

Sharon spoke up to **thank Beth for her excellent service as Discipling Council Chair** with an affirmation from all. Beth said she regrets that she must step down because of things in her life right now, but is excited about Maureen Hicks replacing her. She is the vice-chair and would have taken over in June anyway.

Word of thanks by Sharon to Kristi, Julie, Becky Walls and others who worked hard when there was **flooding in the children's wing** on a Saturday. Sunday School went on the next morning with the children hardly knowing there was any difference. She also praised them for their work afterward to restore the classrooms.

Stewardship Campaign: Bill reported that the church had 95 pledges totaling \$412,644.16. It is difficult to compare, but we do know the number of pledges has gone up 25%. The actual number of dollars represented as compared to last year is up 73.7%. An interesting thought is that those who pledge increased their pledge, 53 out of 95 and 15 stepped up to tithe. That's very significant. If you look at what we have been able to support last year, then almost 72% of the potential giving stream with pledging is a whole lot better than when we first looked at the spread sheets that Malinda gave us. It looked as if half was coming from pledges and half from non-pledges. We have been able to move that up to what promises to be more consistent giving over the months. We have made a really good start to the "concept of generosity" that we are aiming for.

We are thinking about where does reporting to the contributors fall. Separating the pledging from the budget process and how we are relating to God – where do the contributors stand. It is not really clear in the by-laws. Who does the reporting, Stewardship or Finance? That is something we need to have more conversation about and decide which way to go.

Sharon asked if any others have heard feed-back? All said positive. Bill humbly stated that this was not because of him that one of the good things is that we all came together to work on this common goal – that was the power of it all. I just followed the routine and was very strict with it. It said not to change anything and we stayed consistent with that.

Outreach Council Report – Bill Thompson

Bill reported that he will step up to the stewardship chair and that Darlene has been asked to step up to the chair of Outreach.

There was discussion of the Sam Starr Ministries and a couple that we had approached to head that up and about some other places that we might be able to use the tools in the trailer etc. One of the things that we have some confusion about and we are looking to clear up, is the whole funding of this ministry. Bill felt we could tap from left-over money from the old Haiti project, \$1200. **The Motion made by the Outreach council that we re-name Haiti Project Fund to the Sam Starr designated fund. The motion was carried unanimously.**

Bill asked Sharon to report on the Clothes Closet because she is more aware of what has transpired. Plans were made to move the clothes closet from the basement of the Craddock Center to the Little White House by last August. Other things got in the way and this did not happen, but we have finally gotten it moved under Roxanne's leadership and it has grown tremendously. Just having it on the street where everyone can see it has made a huge difference. Roxanne, Darlene and everyone else are thrilled!

Sharon also noted that the basement of the Little White House has been cleaned up and is now ready for use. Hopefully the Children and Youth Education Committee as well as Local Missions can sit down and talk about what we can do with this. Some of the ideas are to use it as a tutoring center for kids, or to help folks do their taxes. There are lots and lots of things we can do with this area now that it is available and on the street. Darlene, Roxanne, Jane Murray and the whole Clothes Closet crew have spent hours and hours on this. There is also the possibility of expanding the hours.

Resource – Sharon reporting for Tom Mitchell who is out of town for the holiday.

The floors: Late yesterday afternoon Charlie McCann had another conversation with the attorney concerning the floors. Basically Charlie asked him whose side he is on because he thought his letter was very negative and that we have no chance to win this dispute. The attorney said he did not intend that to be the tone of the letter and was just trying to let us know there are some hurdles to get over if we take this to court. One is that if we do go to court it is going to be costly. We as a church have to decide if it is worth our time and the resources that we have. The good news is that we have resolved the immediate issues. We have the floor much safer we have finished the education and the choir wings. We have done that with donations from some folks and with some of the rent we have received from the Church on the Hill. So it has put us in a very good position financially. Leslie recommended that we send him all the numbers of what we have already spent and what we will need to spend to finish the floors. He is planning to send one more demand letter to both the attorney for the product distributor and also the installer saying this is the real number that the church must have in order to complete this and to move on. If they divide this up between the two of them the church will go away and release you from whatever.

So far we have spent and will spend in round figures almost \$50,000. The cost will be \$10,000 in discovery and mediation and \$23,000 if we go to trial. Sharon recommended that we table this discussion until January because we need to let Leslie do that one last piece.

The flood from one of the toilets was resolved by having the plumber come in and replace all the internal mechanisms of the toilet that the minerals in our water had eaten away. So, that got taken care of.

The well water is another process that we needed to deal with. We just received the results back from the testing and they are not good. Lack of copper, yes, but the newest result is also chloroform in the water. So, do not drink the water, do not use the ice maker. A certified well person will be here Monday to see how we can correct this problem and will do a regular check on this. Caroline indicated that she did not know that this was going on and her company has a testing plant of class 1 operators. We will consider this.

The Property Committee under the Resource Council is being looked at. The preliminary decision is to bring all the systems of the church back into the church office so that a schedule and a database enabling these systems to be inspected on a regular basis can be formulated. This is an attempt to help manage that better giving it some consistency in terms of qualified vendors to do some of the things that we now know are critical to our church and the health of our members. This is still in process. Tom Dickinson and Billy Harrison took this over on an interim basis after Kenny and Charlie stepped down. Charlie McCann has asked to come back based upon the systems management being brought back into the office.

Technology

Service: Last week Cornerstone Media came to our service to determine the problems with our audio problem. He thinks he can solve it with a new speaker. The cost will be approximately \$3,000. Sharon is researching places where the money can come from.

Personnel

Salary Increases: Bob Clark, Personnel Committee Chair discussed salary increases that were approved unanimously by the Personnel and Finance Committees. This is the first time in several years that we have recommended increases for all staff. Health insurance for Malinda and Richard was discussed. That is step one in our thinking with personnel. We need to bring the minister's salary up to a better level than we are now. We will probably make a recommendation next year to increase that even more because somewhere down the road David may think of retiring we will need to think about leadership in this church.

David noted that he is more pleased than he has ever been with personnel. To the person each staff member feels they are working toward the whole and that we are working together. This is obvious in several areas. I believe every one of the staff is working well together.

The Personnel Committee recommends an increase in the pastor's salary this year. There was a lengthy discussion and many concerns were brought forth. This amount is in the budget that will be placed before the congregation for approval.

FINANCE

Sharon explained the budget from the Finance committee. One of the goals was to make it more descriptive so the people understand where the dollars are going. The goal is to increase the number of line items. Each line item was discussed in detail. Sharon indicated that the congregation will have the opportunity to see the budget before the meeting through many sources. (Designated funds were also discussed and noted that this money must be spent as designated in a timely manner.)

Jerry made the motion that approval or not approval of the budget as presented by the Finance Committee be made using secret ballots by the board. The motion was approved by all. The budget was passed overwhelmingly

Nominating Committee

Leadership Recommendations: The following were recommendations of the Nominating Committee. Because it is mid-year, these recommendations did not need to go before the congregation. **Charlie McCann, Property Chair. Maureen Hicks to move up from Vice Chair to Chair the Discipling Committee replacing Beth Roberts. Bill has resigned as the Outreach Chair. Beginning January Darlene Fike to become the chair.** The nomination was seconded by Beth. There was brief discussion.

Vote was taken: Charlie McCann, Property Chair. All were in favor. Discipling Council Chair, Maureen Hicks, All were favor. Outreach Chair, Darlene Fike. Three were opposed.

Mission Statement Jerry brought up something that is not on Agenda for congregational meeting is that an ad hoc committee was appointed by membership to develop a Mission Statement. We are going to begin our congregational work at that meeting asking for input from those present for some "important words" that describe our congregation.

David's Sabbatical: David is now eligible by his contract for a 3 month sabbatical. David has requested to take the month of February as the first month of his three-month sabbatical. This will be brought up at the congregational meeting to remind people of this. This is a new concept for this church. David will also bring up another new concept: he will give the first State of the Church about what the church is about and what it is doing. One of the suggestions is to have it during the Sunday School hour to invite those who attend both worship services to come together.

Note: in order to make this budget we must have more 1/3 of our quorum in attendance which would be 50 people and after that it is a simple majority of those people. Absentee ballots will be available.

There was discussion that the one hour limited time to take the Vote for the Budget, the State of the Church, and the short Mission Statement item that Jerry raised. It was decided by general consensus that on 9:30 am, December 8 there will be a congregational vote on the budget and possibly a town hall type discussion. All Sunday School classes will be notified and the budget will be published and made available to the congregation before that time. The State of the Church will be postponed until January between both services.

New Business

Bill requested that the Board provide guidance about who reports to the congregation the results of the financial campaign and the follow up. Does this come under the Stewardship or Finance? Bill asked for some direction from the Board because it is unclear in the by-laws. Because the Finance Chair needs to be consulted before a vote can be taken, Bill asked that the Board give him some direction as to which way this might go so that he can move on with his preparations in January for next year's campaign. The agreement was that the Board is "Leaning" toward this reporting be assigned to the Stewardship Committee.

Because of the lateness of the hour there was a quick motion and second that meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Tripp, Clerk