

Congregational Meeting Minutes December 3, 2006

Meeting was called to order at 9:50 am by Board President Pat Parman-Bethard. She expressed her gratitude to everyone for being speedy in signing in. We already had a quorum of members present, which the bylaws state is 25% of the membership.

Minutes were approved from the Spring Congregational Meeting.

Deep listening sessions report from Saphronia Young

- People are proud of our new bathrooms and paint.
- Pleased with the choir's graceful transition from one director to another and their contribution that deepens our spiritual experience
- Folks like the Chalice Circles and our new playground

The following are expressions of things we need/want:

- More spirituality
- Greater focus on youth and young adults and children
- Adult Religious Education

Priorities identified:

- Covenant of Right Relations
- Fair Share and Fair Salaries
- Focus on Children, Youth and Young adults

Questions were raised about the resignation of the Director of Family Ministries:

- This decision was made based on a variety of concerns expressed first in the staff evaluations in the summer, and then reiterated by church members in the deep listening sessions.

Expression of appreciation for Sandy Neilson's years of service

Expression of gratitude for Rev. James dedication and leadership

Rick presented budget in a new format:

- As of this date it appears there will be a surplus
- Canvas is not yet completed
- Budget for 2007 is based on that of 2006
- Set aside some monies for the search for a Director of Family Ministries
- We still are hoping to get closer to fair compensation for the staff. This budget is not reflecting an increase in salaries we hope to establish once all pledges are in. At a minimum there will be a cost of living to staff
- The Board is discussing moving to a Fiscal Year model which would shift the Canvass to Spring.
- Membership is up to 193 where last February it was 184

- This budget reflects a grouping of expenses as based on programming.
- At the board meeting on 12/11 this budget will be finalized and posted with more specifics.

Some dissatisfaction expressed by members who were expecting to see a line item budget. Rick responded that would be forthcoming when the budget is finalized. Line items can be expected:

5500 Family Ministries Program
4000 B&G Lighthouse
1000 Search for DFM

President requested approval of spirit of the budget. Budget was approved with approximately 7 abstaining.

New Board Member: Kyle Coleman, fulfilling the term of Carol Giberson. Approved.

Amanda gave us an exercise in Virtues and Values as a precursor to a Covenant of Right Relations to be developed in the coming year.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.