

Unity Annual Membership Meeting February 12, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 12:58 p.m. by Laurie Lamothe.

Determination of Number of Active Members Present: Not determined, 46 ballots cast

Opening Prayer

Time was allowed for a moment of silence, and concluded with a prayer from James Murphy. Missing from the meeting is Pam Pierce. She has been held up in Florida.

Reading the Daily Word

The Daily Word was read aloud by Jim Elliot.

Introduction of the Board Members

Chuck introduced the Board members present: Dale Brock, Jim Elliot, James Murphy, Laurie Lamothe, and Chuck Piccard.

Presidents Report

Bryan Whittemore motioned to accept the Presidents report as written. The motion was voted on and approved.

2005 Volunteer Successes

Accepted as part of the Presidents report.

Approval of 2005 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes

Bryan Whittemore motioned to accept them as written. Kevin seconded. The motion was voted on and approved.

Approval of 2005 Year End Financial Report

Laurie noted the addendum report handed out at the meeting and asked if there were any questions on the report. Shannon Dennison asked about the discrepancy between the 2005 year end report and the Jan 2006 building and land values handed out in the addendum package. Laurie replied the figure in the 2005 year end report represents the insured replacement costs, not the fair market value which is a more accurate representation of the actual value of the property. It was also pointed out this is an in house report and an appraisal would be required by a bank if we were seeking a loan.

Larry McKnight asked if the change should be amended to the December 2005 figures instead of the January 2006 figures since the decision was made in 2005. James Murphy stated that even though the actual decision was made in December, there was lag time in the books reflecting this until 2006, when the accountant helped Jodi do so. Larry asked if the report could be amended since this was a December decision.

Chuck Pearson asked if we should do an actual appraisal before we amend the figures. Laurie replied an appraisal hadn't been done since 1984, but that Larry McKnight

provided a consultation report, a copy of which can be viewed in the church office. Larry commented the cost to do an appraisal is \$4,000. Laurie replied since the cost of an appraisal is so high, and this report is only for internal purposes, and Larry provided a consulting report that gives a range value in comparison to other church sales, a formal appraisal is not a priority at this time. Although Larry did not give an actual figure in the report, a range of \$40 to \$60 a square foot was presented to the board. The board used a \$50 square feet multiplied by the 8,249 square feet of building space.

Sharon Wells asked if the present insurance would cover the entire replacement costs of the church. Laurie replied that our insurance does cover replacement costs.

Bryan Whittemore asked if the new figures in the Addendum reflect the recent building improvements.

Shannon Dennison asked why salary or wages weren't reported as liabilities on the balance sheet. Laurie replied that since wages are paid weekly, wages aren't shown as liabilities only the quarterly taxes. Jill Armstrong added that payroll is reported on the income and expense statement.

Marcia Fellows asked if they were still prohibited from having plants up close to the building, and if ant damage was still a consideration. Laurie said recommendations from Rose Pest Control are to keep plantings from being next to the building to prevent insect infestations, but that she has also been advised, the more important issue is keeping the soil from being in contact with the siding.

Marsha Mason motioned to accept the minutes as amended. Larry Agle seconded the motions. The vote carried.

Presentation of 2006 Budget

Laurie explained the 2006 budget included budgeting monies needed for the minister search and estimated building maintenance. Larry McKnight motioned to accept them as written. Kevin Hubbard seconded. The motion was voted on and approved.

Laurie asked for a motion to accept the Addendum as written. Bryan Whittemore motioned to accept them as written. Tom Hale seconded. The motion was voted on and approved.

Partners in Ministry Report

Marsha Mason asked the congregation to acknowledge the team leaders for their hard work. Marlene motioned to accept the report as written. Linda Whittemore seconded. The motion was voted on and approved.

Youth Education Ministry Report

Karen asked to acknowledge the youth teachers and angels as well as the board members. Katie Chapman motioned to accept them as written. Linda Piccard seconded. The motion was voted on and approved.

Marketing Report

Laurie asked if there were any questions on the Marketing report. Larry McKnight motioned to accept them as written. Shannon seconded. The motion was voted on and approved.

Music Ministry Report

Bryan Whittemore reported we had a failure of one of the sound system's amplifiers, and this cost needed to be added to the budget he already requested. A question was asked about obtaining a CD burner to record the sermons to replace cassette tapes. Bryan reported his budget report included a CD burner. Linda Whittemore motioned to accept them as written. Tom Hale seconded. The motion was voted on and approved.

Nomination Committee Report

As chairperson, Marsha Mason read the board qualifications as stated in our by-laws. Marsha reported Edith Tallman, Chuck Piccard and Laurie Lamothe worked on the nomination committee. Marsha introduced the four people seeking nomination for board membership: Nancy Abish, Dale Brock, Rebecca McKnight and James Murphy. The positions open are the ones currently held by James Murphy and Dale Brock. Laurie asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Larry McKnight motioned to accept the nominations. Shannon seconded. The motion was voted on and approved.

Time was allowed for the nominees to speak from the floor.

Nancy wanted to thank the board for the increase in communication, and promised to keep up this effort.

Dale Brock noted he has been on the board for a year and stated we need to continue the improvements on the grounds and building. He stated he has enjoyed the time serving on the board and he feels his job as a board member is not yet complete.

Rebecca stated her vision for the church of inviting people that feel they are hurting. She also mentioned she has been a single mother for 20 years and will be her own person.

James stated he has been on the board for a year. James felt neutral about the polarization of the church over Beverly's leaving, and felt he could provide a balance. He feels his role on the board pulls him into service for the church and stated his commitment and promised to continue to do his best as a board member.

Sharon Wells asked if we were voting on particular board officers. Chuck Piccard noted that we are voting for board members, and the board itself determines the officer roles of board members.

Jill asked three questions...

- 1) What is your personal vision for our church?
- 2) What are two or three most important things to obtain those goals?
- 3) How many hours each month are you willing and able to work for the church?

James stated he is a financial advisor by profession, which includes requirements for participation in non-profit organizations. He reports he volunteers 12 hours a month. His vision used to be for a full church, but has evolved into self-leadership.

Nancy Abish mentioned a new minister that is grounded in Unity principles, that we would hire someone. More classes, community outreach, building improvements. We need more people attending. She mentioned possibly changing the by-laws to make them more inclusive to the congregation. She will continue to work in the hospitality committee and Youth Ministry.

Rebecca tells people our church is her "Jewel on the Hill". She wants the church to grow so others could experience what she has experienced here. She will look into outreach committees, and will do whatever it takes to make this happen.

Dale says he will spend as much time as his family and God is willing to allow him. His vision is making improvements to the church by making it friendlier and keeping up the building maintenance. He feels we need to finish these improvements now to prepare our church for the new minister.

Election of new Board Members

Laurie then called for the congregation to vote for two of the four people on the ballots. Time was allowed and Marsha Mason collected the ballots.

Election of Nomination Committee Member & Alternate for 2006

Laurie asked for volunteers for 2006 Board Nomination Committee member. Kevin Hubbard volunteered.

Mike Bieri wanted to acknowledge the current board for all their hard work. The congregation gave them a standing ovation.

Jill Armstrong asked if we could make the board larger to help spread the workload. Laurie stated that if we didn't have a conventional minister to join the church, a larger board might be very appropriate. Larry McKnight said he feels we may need more information about what kind of help the board actually needs, in which case a larger board may not be necessary. Bryan Whittemore mentioned more people have stepped forward to help out, which is a positive change he has noticed.

Laurie asked for an individual to serve as an alternate. Katie Chapman asked for requirements of the job and then volunteered to serve as alternate. Laurie explained the committee looks through the membership list for who meets the requirements, and then talks to people asking for their potential interest in becoming a board member.

The 2006 Nominating Committee will be Kevin Hubbard and Katie Chapman as alternate.

Love Offering

A love offering was taken while Laurie explained how Board replacements are selected. \$300.00 designated for a new amplifier was donated.

Discussion of How Replacements are Selected

Laurie explained the by-laws state the Board selects a replacement at the next regularly scheduled board meeting, but historically we have been using the first alternate. Laurie explained Unity Church of Peace used the first runner up as the alternate for board replacements, and the alternate attends board meetings so they are up to speed in case they are needed. Laurie suggested we also have the alternate attend meetings.

Announcements

Laurie announced some guidelines for the Newleadership email list, and the difference between the church office announcements and the Newleadership “chat.” See page in addendum.

Laurie announced we are looking to restart creating a printed newsletter. It was apparent from the mailed in responses to the marketing survey done in Dec 2005, people who have not been attending church recently are not aware of or experiencing the positive differences that have happened in 2005. The responses show a difference in perception between those that turned in their response at church, and from the mailed in responses. And the newsletter would be a way to reach out to those people who have not joined us recently.

Branding the church was mentioned, and Laurie asked people to think about how we view our church in regards to creating a new logo and/or a new name for the church. This will be discussed further at a future Town hall meeting.

Questions and Comments

Larry asked if the amount for stain glass window repair was correct. Laurie replied it was the correct figure. \$4,200.00, it is the first bid in.

Laurie asked for people to serve on a Welcoming Committee to help welcome new people as they come to our church.

Rev Gary Simmons Workshop

Church of Peace is willing to cosponsor a workshop/retreat with Rev Gary Simmons. Those interested: Candice Cullins, Jill Armstrong, Melissa Hale, Larry McKnight, Linda Whittemore, Linda Piccard, Marsha Fellows, Sandy Fisher, David Hutton, Jim Elliott, and Dale Brock all volunteered to work on this event. Bryan Whittemore has comments about this to be discussed later.

By-Laws

Pat Pearson has been working on comparing our by-laws with the association by-laws as required for our minister search packet. Bryan Whittemore, Candice Cullin, Sandy

Fisher, Rebecca McKnight, and Nancy Abish volunteered to work on a by-law committee to talk about recommended changes as discussed in the leadership series.

Minister Search

Persons interested in serving on the Minister Search committee: James Murphy, Edith Tallman, Sandy Fisher, Katie Chapman, Larry McKnight, Nancy Abish, Linda Piccard, Sharon Wells, and Craig Strain.

Prosperity Focus team volunteers:

Larry McKnight, Edith Tallman Marsha Mason, Shannon Dennison.

Community Support and/or Seniors Group volunteers:

Sandy Fisher will work with Sharon Wells to coordinate this.

Bryan Whittemore asked for ideas for future events for a future discussion.

Judy Merrills asked about changing the time Sunday service starts in the summer to 10:00

Townhalls

The frequency of Townhall meetings was discussed. They are currently scheduled on a quarterly basis. James noted that a more frequent schedule might be too often for enough participation. Larry McKnight suggested having them the last Sunday of every other month. Sharon suggested a newsletter might be a good way to get information to the congregation. Tom Hale suggested setting a specific ending time to help people schedule these meetings.

A vote was taken on the frequency of Townhall meetings. The results were: 16 for every other month, and 12 for quarterly.

Introduction of the New Board Members

Marsha Mason announced the new board members: James Murphy and Rebecca McKnight. First alternate is Nancy Abish.

Closing Prayer

The meeting was closed with the congregation singing “How Can Anyone Fail to Notice You Are Anything Less than Beautiful”.

The meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted;

Robert Temple