

Trinity United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Notes
April 7, 2009

In Attendance: Denny Mangum, Bobby Ellisor, Nancy Watson, Karen Baker, Pete Bayer, Nora Doss, Connor Gray, Sherry Hamrick, Bob Horton, Matt Hull, Steve Lancaster, Elizabeth Mangum, Marie Marshall, Steve Milz, LaTreva Pounds, Sarah Schultz, Edna Sherrow, Jim Young.

Denny Mangum opened the meeting with prayer.

Review of agenda – see agenda (review what our job is tonight)

Review of minutes of last meeting. Karen moved to approve them as written. Bob Horton 2nd. All approved.

Denny discussed how we want our campus renovation to stack up priority wise. Our intent with apportionments is to make 100% and maintain the same level of intensity to do so. At the same time, he believes it is time to elevate the renovation of the sanctuary project to the same level and do both. Pete and Nancy asked to give a financial report.

Nancy reviewed 1st quarter financials. She has detailed financials available if anyone wants to see them.

- Local budget commitments – this is what people pledged. The YTD actual compared to the YTD budget, we are 13.5 thousand dollars behind what we have pledged. There are certain caveats, some people give quarterly or yearly. They will be reflected in April. We are ahead in all other areas. In general revenues we are 6500 dollars down compared to what we budgeted. In March we paid \$4865 in apportionments. We are ahead of budget by \$7500, based on budgeted apportionments of 35%. In most areas of expenses we are under spent YTD by \$192.00. Overall, net, we are down \$6300.00. Even though we are under spending our budget, we spent more than we brought in. The revenue shortfall is in pledges.

Pete Bayer commented that a major push of the Finance Committee is to change how we review and look at our operating/restricted accounts.

Under connectional giving, we are trying to get to 100%. Last year we were at 70%. This year we were only able to budget 38%. Through Denny Mangum's encouragement, we have made re-budgeting apportionments a priority. Although pledges are down, plate offerings are up. It appears people are being cautious. We are 6000 behind, about 3% on revenue that we budgeted for.

Denny Mangum stated that we budgeted relative to last year's budget.

Pete Bayer shared that Phil Wood has put together a 5 year history of actual spending. He and Phil reviewed this to see where we could shift within the budget. They only came up with a possible \$5-6000, not a lot.

Denny Mangum stated that the point is that although we budgeted a low percent for apportionments, we are striving to increase that.

Duane Keck – asked for clarification on the 38% budgeted amount. What is the order of payment? Nancy shared that we said we would pay the 2 district items and the top 4 items in full, first.

Bob asked what the apportionment amount at higher percentage would be. 70% is \$80,000, 100% is 112,000.

Nora Doss asked if the conference has tightened their belts. Nancy referred to the last newsletter article from the Bishop. Yes they have, salaries frozen for 3 years, etc.

Bob Horton asked what our apportionments are this year vs. last year. Nancy replied that we only increased slightly. They only went up approx \$1000.

Denny Mangum asked that Finance continue to scrub the budget. We want to do everything we can. We want to be able to say we gave it our best shot. Even small increments add up.

Elizabeth Mangum – Report from the Trustees:

- Regarding the Church campus here – there has been a building committee team assembled.
- The Bowling League has offered to pay to have the carpeting in the MFH replaced. We are getting estimates and will update at a later time.
- The Trustees took a tour of the parsonage. The Ellisor's have had medical issues that required them to vacate the parsonage. We have had a building inspection and a lab inspection. We are looking at options to possibly fix the parsonage. We are entertaining different courses of action including the possibility of selling it.
- We found out that we don't have a good handle on all of the memorials. We are searching for anyone that has the listing of all the memorials. We want to provide good record.
- Josh Walker wants to replace the projector in the MFH. We have gotten estimates.
- We have \$13,000 in the Trustee account, and asked that Finance Committee not move any money until the Trustees determine what to do with the Parsonage.

Elizabeth opened the floor for questions.

- Duane Keck asked for more details on the parsonage. Elizabeth offered the 20 page report with pictures for review. There are no issues related to neglect or care taken of the parsonage.
- Pastor Bobby supplied medical note to Elizabeth for confirmation of family health issues.
- Jim Young asked if any mold had been found. Elizabeth replied that they checked for 9 different molds. According to the report – which is available, there are no dangerous molds. We are looking for a more thorough report. Elizabeth will take this report back to the Trustees and get back with us.
- Duane expressed concern of inconvenience to the pastoral family. He also asked if we had a functional parsonage committee. Elizabeth replied that we do not have one at this time. We are functioning as a Trustee committee.
- Jean asked if the parsonage was paid for – yes it is.
- Bob Horton asked what happened to the parsonage committee. Elizabeth stated that when the former committee leader resigned, no one else stepped forward.
- Bob Horton stated that the Book of Discipline says that the Trustees have the responsibility for the property, but it can be delegated to a parsonage committee.
- Duane stated that he knew the Trustees were doing everything we can, and that this situation should be prayed over, as it an undue inconvenience for the pastoral family. We should make sure we are doing everything for them that we can. He suggests that we begin with another parsonage committee. Duane will volunteer to be a member of that committee. Elizabeth accepted his volunteering, and agreed to call him.

Denny Mangum brought up the Sanctuary Renovation. He believes we can do this. He reminded the council that they have already voted on approval of the concept, and now it is time to share it with the congregation. Denny asked for discussion and elevation of the renovation as a priority. He recommends that the funding be approved as a priority also.

LaTreva Pounds asked if the presentation could be shown to new members.

Matt asked if there was a plan to address the front of the church – the Racetrack road portion. Denny responded that there is not a plan for this in the first phase.

Pete Bayer was concerned about splitting spearheads on items of priority. He is not comfortable with the finances we have today. He suggests that council should wait another quarter, see where we are with budgets and then consider renovations.

Gail Widener stated that she was concerned about issues facing us – 38% apportionment budget, behind budget, parsonage issues – and was not comfortable with asking the congregation to fund renovations.

Steve Lancaster asked how long it has been since we put money towards the parsonage.

Elizabeth responded that in October a new heat pump was installed in the parsonage for approximately \$5,000.

Carolyn Villar shared that within the past 5 years, new carpet was installed, and new appliances except for the refrigerator were installed. A new roof was put on the parsonage 6 ½ years ago. It has been painted inside and out.

When Carolyn resigned from the parsonage committee, she was not aware of any issues related to the parsonage. Last year, with the budget crunch, one of the accounts for the parsonage was closed out. There have been things done to bring it up to date cosmetically, but the funds were not there.

Denny Mangum stated that one of the options being looked at to repair the parsonage is a line of credit against the parsonage.

Steve Lancaster offered his assistance on the parsonage committee.

Elizabeth said that it might be a good idea to separate the parsonage issues and the main campus issues. She does not want parsonage issues to impact renovation.

Denny Mangum and Bob Horton replied that financially it does.

Jean Rivard stated that if we could do the repairs we should. She shared concern about getting a buyer for the parsonage in this economy.

Steve Lancaster offered the option of renting to generate funds to offset the cost of providing a place to live.

Elizabeth will give Steve and Duane a parsonage report.

Pete Bayer stated that the convenience for the pastor should be a top priority due to the effect of travel on his family.

Gail Widener reiterated that we have 3 areas we are addressing – the parsonage, renovation of the facility and apportionments. We have one budget.

LaTreva Pounds suggested we wait to make decisions until we find out what our needs will be with the parsonage.

Karen Baker suggested that sometimes people will respond to something tangible.

Denny Mangum stated that we would have a capital fund drive. We would not commit money until it was raised.

Bob Horton expressed concerned that people may pledge, but not actually provide. Similar to what is happening with our budgeted pledges now.

Nora Doss said that maybe we should wait until the economy improves.

Karen Baker suggested that we present to the congregation and get feedback.

Edna Sherrow would like to see it presented to the congregation as an item or a vision as we come to our 50th anniversary.

Steve Milz expressed concern that there are a lot of people like him that are totally unaware of the renovation discussion. He felt that the new members and the congregation should have a chance to view this.

Edna Sherrow suggested that someone come in and share the presentation with the new council again.

Jean Rivard – We are 6 months away from the stewardship campaign. This is where next years money is generated. We need to look at timing.

Karen Baker - It was 10 years ago since we developed our vision 2000. She said that it is time to hold another Saturday workshop to establish a new vision. If we are truly going to be a church of hospitality we need a place to meet and greet and welcome new people. We need to develop a mission/vision plan.

Pete Bayer also asked for a new presentation.

Connor Gray suggested a church dinner with a presentation.

Pastor Bobby believes the congregation deserves the opportunity to say yes or no. He knows for a fact that there are people in this congregation who will make a contribution to a project like this. His concern is that we as council run the risk of becoming afraid. The congregation will take its cue from leadership. He is convinced that the whole congregation deserves an opportunity to hear – not a capital fund pressure – a vision. Invite them to support the project if they are willing. As challenging as our finances are, we are in much better shape than the vast majority of Methodist churches. He believes our congregation needs to know our challenges with apportionments. If our people heard what the priorities of the congregation are, without pressure, we can give them the opportunity to say yes or no. It is a matter of giving the congregation information.

Bobby stated that he thinks the church should look at getting out of real estate (a parsonage). Pastors, particularly senior pastors, need an opportunity to buy into their community. The large majority of churches are moving towards housing allowances rather than a parsonage.

Nora shared that when the current sanctuary was built, the same conversations were had. Someone at that time said churches can move forward or back, but we cannot stand still.

Nora moved, Steve Lancaster 2nd, all approved sharing presentation with the congregation.

Jean suggested cards for opinions when we present to the congregation.

Bobby Ellisor shared lay leadership nominations for a facilities renovation team and a 50th anniversary committee.

- The names provided have agreed to serve. Those names are attached.
- The renovation committee will be serving for approximately 3 years.
- The 50th anniversary committee will have the responsibility of putting together plans for next year.
- Bobby would like to have a couple more people on the committees. There are still some we have not heard from.
- Bobby asked if there is anyone else on the council who would like to step in and help – interested in youth help also.
- Bobby asked that a motion be made to approve these people including Lorene Stanford if accepted. Marie Marshall made the motion, Jean Rivard seconded, all approved.

LaTreva Pounds asked that someone involved with technology be on the committee for renovation as well.

Edna moved to add LaTreva to the renovation team, Elizabeth Mangum seconded the motion. All of council was in favor, approved. **MINISTRY AREA REPORTS**

Bob Horton shared a final report for community. - Attached

Carolyn Villar spoke about the sack lunch ministry. The youth make lunches every Wednesday. The youth write scripture and wonderful comments on the lunches. The people that get these lunches have expressed enjoyment over receiving these scriptures. She commended youth and Matt for helping with such great heart.

Jean Rivard noted that the Soup Kitchen and the Sack Lunch ministry are two entirely different ministries. The soup kitchen served 11-1 and folks could pick up a lunch anytime.

Jim Young, on behalf of the UMM, expressed thanks to those who came out to help with the church grounds last Saturday.

Karen Baker, on behalf of the Hospitality ministry, invited everyone to the social time before the 9:45 service. We are forming a group for EXTREME HOSPITALITY. We hope to find people here to go the extra mile to meet and greet new people and bring back existing ones.

Denny Mangum thanked everyone for coming.

Pastor Bobby reminded Council that God is doing some amazing things in this place. This church is doing many great things.

The meeting was closed with prayer at 7:54 pm.