

Union Church General Committee 9-21-09

Present: Leslie Berger, Jean Boyce, John Culp, Joan English, Jeff From, Kent Gilbert, Jan Hamilton, Betty Hibler, Wyndee Holbrook, Merlin Kindel, Tom Manning-Beavin, Teri Mehler, Hazel Morris, Nancy Shinn, Patti Smithson

Kent offered the devotional, an opportunity for GC members to talk with one another and share "Where were you today?," "Where are you now?," "Where did you encounter God?" and led the group in a prayer about the work of our hands.

August minutes: Nancy Shinn added to list of attendees and the Hiring Guidelines item amended to affirm that it is not intended to be a policy and does not need to be revisited beyond the addition of the sentence stating that the personnel committee will be responsible for obtaining Background Checks.

Merlin Kindel attended as a guest with an idea to increase the number of people in our fine old building, and increase the ministry we can accomplish and funds with which to do it. Suggested considering partnering with another congregation; whether combining entirely or sharing building space, whether an existing congregation is seeking a new building or a newly formed group looking for a home. He offered the idea for discussion and consideration. The wish was expressed that we were a more diverse congregation and there was discussion about the need for growth, to reach the unchurched with all we have to offer.

Discussion of Sunday's Congregational meeting to vote on adoption of Living the Vision Mission Statement. Passed unanimously! Great wrap-up to the meetings, worship services, the 2-year process of prayerful discernment. Discussion of whether to publish our Mission Statement and an invitation to join Union Church in this joyful work — agreed. Perhaps a 1/4 page ad with an introductory portion with a bit of the history—something like "this is what we believe—if you believe this too, you're already part of the family, come join us." Kent will handle this. Wyndee has a meeting at WEKU on 9-22 and will investigate how the current dollar amount of \$750 given for radio advertising can best be spent between now and Christmas. Kent suggested to the Deacons that they might consider some new banners for the front, perhaps with our Mission Stmt. bullet points, offered to help design.

Update & Discussion on Living the Vision Action Plan and Work Teams—next steps. Work Teams are forming: of the 7 Action Plans, 5 have enough people signed up to begin work. Betty seeks a volunteer to help her with the launching of these projects—appointing a chairperson or coordinator, calling those who signed up, maybe having a meeting of coordinators. This person's task would only take a couple of weeks and Kent would like to see it done before he leaves for his Japan trip (mid-Oct.). John Culp will do this. There are printed resources available in the office - Kent has books, conference materials, etc., sorted by Action Plan. He also knows of several KY Council of Churches member churches that are willing to be helpful. Note to all Board chairs/ reps.—please delve into the longer Living the Vision document and see what pertains to their particular areas.

Budget. Need to set a deadline for Boards to submit their budget requests to Finance Committee. Pls. consider how the new mission statement might inform budget needs. Also, please consider multi-year budgeting when possible, discussion of pros & cons. Clarification that the year 2010 is the only year that is actively being budgeted & voted upon—2 or 3-year-out projections are just for planning purposes (ex. money was budgeted and set aside in a line item for several years for Confirmation Class expenses, but not spent until the one year the Class was held). We do this also for sabbatical expenses and it would be most helpful for maintenance issues—to keep from having to scramble for funds when something (inevitably) breaks. Our Action Plans project into the future, it would be helpful to have budget into the future as well. As a long-time nonprofit agency employee, Tom feels it is cru

cial to have multi-year budgeting to allow for longer-term planning & dreaming but it is essential that it be thoughtfully done. And if we plan a Capital Campaign it would be most helpful to tie our concrete goals to financial needs.

After discussion, John suggested a middle ground: that Boards budget for 2010 as usual, but include additional information & dollar amounts, as they see fit, for expenses in subsequent years. Agreed.

Discussion of General Committee involvement in “talking phase” of budgeting, with Trustees or Finance Committee. It is helpful to have Board representation and input into process but, as always, constructing the budget is the responsibility of the Finance Committee.

Schedule:

Boards compile their budget requests at October meetings, give to Trustees by October 31
Pledges will be received on November 1 Finance and Trustees will make budget Discuss with General Committee at its Nov. 16 meeting ; revise as necessary 2010 Proposed Budget available Dec. 9 Budget will be voted upon at a Congregational Meeting December 16, 6:30, after WNL supper.

Line Item for General Committee expenses, agreed it is a good/necessary idea, Tom will work with Betty on this.

Childcare for regular and special events—whose responsibility to secure. Joan will do this, as it is our blanket policy to have childcare at every event. If our “regular,” Jennifer Shelton is not available, Joan will inform the Board that they need to find someone. Our Childcare Policy states that the person providing care must have had a background check, Kent suggested Youth Group members, as they have had checks performed.

Ordination Gifts for Chrissy and Mark—Betty pointed out that, if General Committee had a line item, it would be used for just this purpose. Since we do not currently have an intern, but have budgeted money for a stipend, she suggested that \$100 for each be spent on gifts from that line. Moved & passed.

Suggestion from Sara Katherine and Tom Manning-Beavin to engage a Property Management Company to do a Capital Needs Assessment and on-going building management. Email passed to Trustees for consideration. Report from Kent and Leslie about a conference they attended hosted by Building God’s Way, a company that plans, designs and builds churches. They have a good record of success, a network of suppliers, a commitment to “green” methods & supplies as practical, and a commitment to connecting building with faith. Affirmed that this is not what RSI would do for us—we might raise funds with RSI, but spend them with BGW.

Wednesday Nite Live report: successful, with many thanks to Patti Smithson, cooks are always needed, Betty put a note in Consider.

Reports:

Deacons: Teresa cannot attend evening GC meetings, due to work and family responsibilities. It is absolutely fine with GC if she designate someone else to attend, and the committee sends its loving support to her.

CE: They are seeking to hire someone to take over Childrens Church, and use volunteers as helpers, not as leaders. They would like the continuity of one leader, rather than a different person leading every week.

Trustees: Note: Gail needs 2 men & a truck on October 3, at 5:30 pm to pick up a loom at Indian Fort Theater for Stewardship. This will go in the bulletin. CD player was purchased, Rev. Kent got it at a yard sale for \$30 and has installed it in the sound booth.

Mission: Needs a leader for Habitat projects and someone to take on the Bazaar planning/reconfiguring next year.

Pastor: asks that each Board think of some small, very specific tasks they can ask of newcomers to help them connect (set tables, etc).

Let us hold in prayer: Nancy Shinn and family, at the death of her father, Peggy Coyne, who is still struggling with allergic reactions to pain meds, Loretta Mountjoy, who will need a pacemaker, Toby and Zoe, as Harold goes through recovery, Dorothy Crandall, who is stable.