

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

February 8, 2007

Approved minutes

Members Present: Andy Ansell, Kimberlee Bach, James Dahlen, Rev. Paul Eknes-Tucker, Steve Robertson, Nicky Simon, Bill Langlois

Excused Absences: Steve Reinke

Guests: Frank Kurzinski, Jeff Kjellburg, Rev. Robyn Provis

Prayer Requests

Nicky Simon offered the opening prayer, after mentioning prayer concerns.

Vision/Mission/Values Statement

James Dahlen read the Vision, Mission, and Values. These are read in the beginning of all Board meetings in an effort to focus on what the congregation has identified as our strategic direction and goals.

Review and Approval of Agenda

The agenda was accepted with an addition to add the "Spirit is a Service" at the end.

Jan 2007 Minutes

The minutes were approved by unanimous consent after minor corrections.

Secretary's Report

Kimberlee Bach's written report noted that current church membership stands at 340. Kimberlee Bach made a motion to reinstate Dana Badgerow's membership pending confirmation at church service. James Dahlen seconded. There was discussion as to when that would happen. It would be at the next confirmation of a New Membership class. It was passed by unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report

In addition to his written report, James Dahlen let the Board know that the bank rejected our loan request for the furnace because we don't have a capital campaign and not enough of a membership according to the banks calculations.

James Dahlen asked the bank about a line of credit. The church could get one, but only if someone personally signs for it. No one was comfortable with doing that.

Finances are in rough shape.

Generations of Faith did not pay December or January rent.

General Conference

The Budget agreed to pay for 2 delegates (\$3000) and 2 pastors (\$3000) to General Conference. All three delegates want to go.

Rooms cost \$119 a night and are based on double occupancy. It will cost about \$2,000 to send 2 delegates to conference. It was discussed that maybe the church pays for half the room and whoever shares the room with the delegate pays the other half based on double occupancy.

James Dahlen moved that we fund \$3,000 for the delegates to go conference, to be divided up as the delegates decide. Steve Robertson seconded. There was clarification. Last year there were over expenditures. If the three want to go they need to figure out if they want

to divide the \$3,000 between the three of them and then spend their own money for anything after their part of the \$3,000 is gone. It is their decision to make. The motion was passed with unanimous consent.

Property Team

The written report was submitted. An action item on the report dealt with asbestos testing needed for the furnace project. The Property Team suggested we go with choice C. Andy Ansell suggested that the Heat Team needs to look this over as well before the Board votes on this. The Board referred the report to the Heat Team to look into and then bring their recommendation to the Board.

James Dahlen moved to say “No” to professional mouse extermination. There is no discretionary money to spend. Bill Langlois seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

A decision on the candles was tabled for a meeting in a few months as there won't be another candle light service for several months. The Worship Team will discuss different candles in the meantime.

Personnel Team

Rev. Provis' review still not sent out. Steve Robertson will follow up with Shauna as to why it hasn't been sent out yet.

Marketing Team

David Groenheim and Darren Terpstra agreed to oversee the Marketing Team. The main focus of the Marketing Team right now is going to be the “Would Jesus Discriminate” campaign. The plan the church developed was approved by the Denomination. The Denomination also gave us a \$500 grant. The timeline has been developed and responsibilities have been assigned in regards to events and distribution. Some events have been scheduled.

Aaron Huppert has contacted the Minneapolis Pride Committee.

We have bought the internet domain name wouldjesus.org. It will go directly to the AGCMCC website. We will hold another church service at Pride this year.

Heat Team

The team met to make sure they were sending out the right information to firms they want to have bid on the furnace project. Bid bonds and Performance bonds were discussed in detail. The team decided to go with the Performance bond.

The Bid bond would have been if the bid was for \$300,000 and the project went over \$300,000, we wouldn't pay the excess.

The Performance bond is where the company is held to a timeline and will pay a penalty if not done on time.

Need to get through the bid process to get firm numbers in regards to cost. Can solicit bids and find out how long the firm will guarantee the bid. We are not committed to any particular bid when soliciting bids. There is a two week clause. If the firm is interested they have to submit their proposal within the next two weeks.

We may not be able to undertake the new furnace construction this spring. The time line is irresponsible without the finances in place. James Dahlen suggests we post-poner for one more year and use the time to raise the funds to pay for the project. It is too soon to do it

since we didn't get the bank financing. We still owe \$19,000 to the firm that helped design the furnace and aren't able to pay that at this time. James Dahlen has been trying to pay them \$1,000 every couple of weeks as able to.

It was brought up to put the furnace into Miracle Sunday and also pay the firm as we have been, as long as the money is there.

In the March meeting we will discuss the time line and possibly pushing the time frame back. We can still use the same contingency plan for next winter as we had for this winter.

Finances are a real worry. Attendance is down, giving is down. We are only able to pay salaries, utilities, and mortgage. Not yet behind in bills yet. We need to keep with the spending freeze, but it isn't time to panic just yet.

Attendance is down this month, but also had some very cold Sundays and only four Sunday's in January this year as compared to five in 2006.

Pillars

It is this coming Monday night. 75 have RSVP'd. Set up time is 5 PM. It officially starts at 6:30 PM. We will have to rotate between greeters, food replenishment, and bar. Kimberlee Bach will develop the schedule and send it out to everyone.

During the recap for the night the following topics will be covered by members of the Board and Clergy:

Heat Team - lay out where the project is at with no bank financing. Talk about Kairos and the Capital Campaign. How the Capital Campaign goes depends on whether we start the project this year or have to put it off for a year. James Dahlen, Andy Ansell, and Rev. Paul Eknes-Tucker will talk to these points.

Financial State of the Church - we are below Tier one, James Dahlen will talk to this point.

Would Jesus Discriminate campaign - Steve Robertson will talk to this point.

Creating a Life that Matters - Rev. Robyn Provis will talk to this point.

The actual order for the talk will be:

Creating a Life that Matters

Would Jesus Discriminate

Financial/Furnace/Kairos

Capital Campaign

Kairos is a national organization that works mainly with ELCA churches. They have worked with Episcopal, Catholic, UCC, and Methodist and others.

They invest in the church communities they work with and uplift their mission and visions. They focus on understanding their needs, who they are, what their dreams are. They invite people into a meaningful relationship with their church.

There are three phases they follow:

- 1) Listen - Intentionally listen to leadership and help develop strategies and the process for the capital campaign.
- 2) Train - They work with the leadership of the church on how to maximize the experience of a capital campaign and do it well and right.
- 3) Go public - Get the rest of the church and public involved in the campaign when the time is right.

The cost for AGCMCC will be \$28,000.

25% due when we decide do to do it and sign the contract (\$5,700)

25% due when they come to work with people
25% due at appeal Sunday
25% due six to eight weeks after appeal Sunday

The fee is based on industry standards and time investment.

Jeff Kjellburg is fully engaged to help with training, program design, and leadership. He can preach if we want him to and help lead events.

The pastors, Nicky Simon, and Jeff Kjellburg met and discussed how Miracle Sunday might be too soon to ask for money for the furnace. We may want to use Miracle Sunday for other needs.

From start to finish this will take about two to three months until the big Sunday appeal happens. Need to make sure donors have the right information and inspiration to make the donation.

Studies have been done and show that by hiring a consultant, churches will raise up to 50% more than without one.

What affect will this have on regular giving? If someone's capital gift will mean they will stop their regular giving for the year, the capital gift will not be accepted. Do not want to put ministry at risk.

Jeff Kjellburg will continue to be our consultant over the full three year process of the campaign.

How do we justify the cost? We have to be convinced as leaders it is worth the investment. If we don't believe it, no one else will.

Next steps - vote on whether to go with Kairos or not and then decide time frame.

We can bail out at any time if we are not satisfied with the service.

Steve Robertson moves to hire Kairos Company to begin the capital appeal program with our church to raise money for identified and visionary needs. James Dahlen seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

The Board will meet with Jeff Kjellburg Sunday after church, as long as that time works for Jeff.

Stacia XXX and Cheryl XXX have let James Dahlen know they are interested in being part of a Stewardship team.

Pastors Reports

They have the "Alphabet Soup" conference at the U of M. 1500 students are registered to attend. Rev. Eknes-Tucker and Rev. Provis are doing a workshop entitled "Saying Yes to God After Saying No to Religion".

Rev. Eknes-Tucker has applied to get on the HIV services planning council again this year after taking last year off.

Rev. Provis is working with Rev. Eknes-Tucker on Queer Spirituality, Would Jesus Discriminate, and with Westin Edwards on Sex Week curriculum. Westin Edwards is charging us half-price to do this event at our church. The curriculum developed for this week is

something they are working on that may be used Denomination wide. But, with the current financial crunch they have scaled back all they are having him do.

People have responded well to the survey for Sex Week. Do we want to go back to the original plan which will cost \$2,500 or scale back and cap it at \$400? Can we dedicate some of Miracle Sunday to go towards Sex Week?

Rev. Eknes-Tucker recommends that this time around we have Westin Edwards only preach on Sunday to defray the cost. He can start Sex Week out with preaching the first Sunday and Rev. Eknes-Tucker or Rev. Provis can close out the week by preaching the next Sunday. April 22nd is the start of Sex Week.

Islamic class last night went well and half the attendees from Spirit Service stayed for the class.

Spirit Service

Mike Haase and his team still feel Spirit Service isn't taken seriously enough. There is still no worship coordinator for Wednesday night. They are not feeling much support from other teams. The Tech Team not prepared enough to support the service and unable to support the Praise Team during rehearsal.

Nicky Simon asked what the Board could do to help them. We can talk to Donavon Keeney and get a Worship Coordinator set up. Mike Haase needs to talk with Rev. Eknes-Tucker about this. The Board wanted to see if Mike Haase could ask people he knows in the technology field how much it would cost to have them help us with tech support on Wednesday nights. He will bring forward some names and cost.

Spirit Service has been going on for about five and a half years. The Spirit Team needs to revisit what is working and what is not working and what changes they might make.

Executive Session

Motion to Adjourn

Steve Robertson made the motion was made to adjourn and Nicky Simon seconded. It passed by unanimous consent.

Closing Prayer by Steve Robertson

Nicky Simon - VMV in March
Steve Reinke - Prayer in March

Respectfully Submitted,
Kimberlee Bach, Secretary of the Board