

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**JUNE 4, 2010**

A special meeting of Church Council, Finance Team and Program Ministries was called to order on Friday, June 4, 2010, at 6 p.m. and opened with prayer and reading from Ephesians by Pastor Steve Gedon.

In attendance were Kriss Bodnar, Program Ministries Team Chairperson; Steve Bodnar, Trustees Team Chairperson; Dee McCallister, UMW President and Lay Member to the Annual Conference; Cyndy Goldsworthy, Communications and Prayer Teams Chairperson; Kianna Anderson, Childrens Ministry Team Chairperson; Evan Bohnen, Member Finance Team; Marilyn Croucher, Visitation Team Chairperson; Matt Young, Church Council Member-at-Large; Joe Webb, Youth Team; Lori Webb, Member Finance Team; Cindy Pyles, Staff-Parish Relations Chairperson; Ed Engle, Church Treasurer; Brian Boley, Lay Leader; Chip Pickering, Church Council Chairperson; Steve Gedon, Pastor, and Betty Ball, Church Council Secretary.

Steve Gedon stated the purpose of this meeting was to inform the church leadership of the property next door, owned by Crystal Ullum, address of 434 Williams Avenue, will be going on the market. We are land-locked, have very limited space to grow. When property such as this becomes available we have to consider its purchase. Two years ago a property became available across the church parking lot, but that didn't capture the imagination of the church. It takes energy to get the ball rolling and we don't have months to pore through the possibilities. We need to be proactive. There are things we need to address now.

Steve talked to Jon Dehmlow, Ed Engle, Lori Webb and Evan Bohnen of Finance. They need to step up to figure out for us what are our limits, what can we afford. We know our expenses vs. income but we had to put out \$10,000 of savings to pay expenses. If we should purchase the property, it will drain our savings. We will need to go into debt. The budget will have to be evaluated. This needs serious consideration. We have committed \$22,000 for the stained glass window. Steve is getting pressure because we do not have a choir director for the fall. Do we need to hire someone for that so we can have a choir for the 11 a.m. service? What expenses will be incurred? We need to formulate where we are. Can we extend ourselves?

Trustees .. What are the insurance changes that will take place? Take a look at the property. Are there cracks in the foundation, issues not evident now? Are the people willing to negotiate? Steve Bodnar said it would be advantageous for a lawyer to draw up an agreement so we could have first refusal once they set a price for the property. Steve Gedon said we need to check with a real estate lawyer to see how that is done. It was also noted that we need to know about utilities and maintenance issues.

Ministry Teams .. If this is to be considered by the church leadership, everyone is going to want to know what we are going to use this property for in enhancing church growth. Try not to focus so much on how it will bring people (paying). If we invest \$100,000 in the church, how long will it take to recoup that? If we own the property, what would you do with it?

Strategy Team .. Five years down the road .. Have everyone pray for discernment. Just because it is available, doesn't mean that is what God is calling us to do. Pray for the church. What do the people feel? Just because it is available doesn't mean the congregation is ready to take this on. This will really bring out the heart of the church. If our expenses are too high, we can't quietly tap into savings. We don't want to find out later that we have to turn around and sell it because people balked. Will it unite us or divide us? Will it grow or diminish the congregation?

We lost members because of the piano. They didn't think we deserved it, so they walked out. What is the spiritual mood of the congregation, is it spiritual or will it challenge us? What are the church's priorities? Steve asked if we want him to go out and hire a Music Director?

If papers are signed, it will need Council's approval and may require a Congregational Charge Conference (only leadership can vote but the congregation can have their input). Other things will have to happen.

Will anybody be willing to champion this cause? If not, this will become the "Pastor's Folly." Do you know anybody who believes enough in this to champion it and get all the ducks in a row? Kriss said it is hard to champion a nebulous thing but, for her, it is a "no-brainer". Cindy Pyles said once we have something more concrete, it will be a lot easier to champion. Dee said "We did it before, why not do it again. Before it came to about one million dollars in pledges over a number of years and we did it." Steve said it can be done if the passion is there. We need someone really pushing it.

Cyndy said we have had it pretty easy the last couple of years. This is God offering this to us, asking us to cross the Jordan and take a leap of faith. She will champion it on the basis of prayer and the knowledge of His promise that He will be there and provide for us if we take the leap of faith.

Steve Bodnar said he is uncomfortable dealing with the family. On any given day you can get them upset. Would like to have guidance to do things properly, timely. As to getting the first refusal, he doesn't know how we go about working with them. We don't want them to feel we are trying to grab the property. How do we move softly but quickly. Dee said the District people think we should be moving on this.

Page 3

Matt mentioned expenses to income. We need a clear picture of that. We have

increased our budget from last year. Can we get an idea of things so it doesn't look so grim? Steve Gedon said we did get very tight on expenses. We now have enough. As a group, we need to get serious about stewardship. Marilyn Croucher noted that we could always rent the house. Steve Bodnar said we would also have the storage facility out back and we desperately need that.

Steve Gedon said our first step is that Ministry needs to get with Finance to talk about finances, see what we have in the bank, what we have in assets, to help us understand. Seriously sit down and think how well the congregation will respond. Are we spiritually ready to do this? Dream of new ministries. Are we willing to extend ourselves? We will talk about that at another time when we have some fresh information. Steve hopes someone from Church Council will step up and say, "I want to move it forward." If Church Council agrees and makes an offer, we will go from there. We need to see about getting a non-binding contract - a right of first refusal.

There was some discussion about not using money budgeted for a particular ministry that could be given toward this purchase. It was explained that the budget doesn't work that way.

Steve Gedon said everyone has to reassess the ramifications and fall-out. We will not have a choir for the 11 a.m. service come fall. Is that a bigger priority? We need a volunteer to step up and direct the choir. Next week Program Ministries is meeting and that is a good time to get dialogue started. We will make no announcements of this proposal until we have more concrete information.

Brian Boley announced that he has accepted the position of Lay Pastor at Belmont and Calcutta churches, effective June 27<sup>th</sup>. He may occasionally ask for some help. The District has asked us to sponsor them and watch over them for the first year. We will definitely keep them in our prayers.

Meeting adjourned at 7 p.m., and closed with prayer by Joe Webb.

Betty Ball, Church Council Secretary