

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

April 1, 2009

A special meeting of Church Council was called to order in the Sanctuary of First United Methodist Church, Williamstown, West Virginia, at 7:15 p.m., Wednesday, April 1, 2009, and opened with prayer by Council Chairperson Joe Webb.

In attendance were Joe Webb, Church Council Chairperson; Kriss Bodnar, Program Ministries Team Chairperson; Jon Dehmlow, Finance Team Chairperson; Richard Barnard, Staff-Parish Team Chairperson; Matthew Young, Member-at-Large; Allen Sexton, Music Director; Dee McCallister, UMW President and Lay Member to the Annual Conference; Neil Parsons, Adult Council Team Chairperson; Steve Gedon, Pastor; Betty Ball, Church Council Secretary; and members of the congregation Cindy Bush, Tonia Bohnen, Charlotte Fauss, Audra Fuentes, Marilyn Dehmlow, Sandy Mahaney, Linette Gedon, Teresa Martin, Emma Jean Dobbins, Jessie Boley, Bob Meadows, Jerry McCallister and Alisha Sexton.

Chairperson Joe Webb explained that the purpose of this special meeting was to introduce a proposal to purchase a 1933 Steinway Grand Piano (copy of proposal and related information attached and made an official part of these minutes) and then call for a vote on said purchase. Allen Sexton gave a summary of events leading up to need for, search, and other pertinent information regarding proposed purchase of the piano. Jon Dehmlow gave information on financial status of the church and availability of funds for said purchase. It was affirmed that this piano would complement rather than detract from the pipe organ. Concern was stated that this piano would necessitate removal of the chairs in the choir loft, precluding the choir from ever using that area if its numbers became smaller. It was stated that the chairs and riser were portable and could be put back if the need arose. Steve Gedon and others stated that the piano will only appreciate in value and will never be a liability. Organist Dee McCallister agreed that the upright piano now in use cannot be kept in tune and the Grand Piano will be very welcome.

Chairperson Joe Webb called for motion. Motion was made by Betty Ball, seconded by Kriss Bodnar, to purchase the Grand Piano as set forth in the proposal attached. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Betty Ball, Church Council Secretary

Attachment:

Proposal for 1933 Grand Piano (5 pages)

First United Methodist Church
March 31, 2009

Proposal for 1933 Grand Piano



I. Summary

Worship is central to our identity as a community of faith. Within the worship experience, music is a celebration of God's presence and a response to God's divine initiative. Our music ministry continues to grow and invite visitors and members alike to express their hearts and feelings through music. Excellence in music and choral opportunities will continue to be a vital part of the future of the First Church community.

The music ministry of First Church continues to grow with new groups, new music instruments, and new musical opportunities for the congregation and community in general.

FUMC Voices of Praise

PrazKidz

Weddings

Funerals

Community Choir [Christmas Cantata and Good Friday] Wmstn Strings Program

Worship Committee believes there is a need to replace the current upright piano in the Sanctuary loft with a piano of better quality. The current piano has significant structural and tuning problems that make it less attractive to for a simple upgrade. This current piano has been tuned numerous times but is old and will not hold a tune very well. There continue to be problems with certain keys and musical ranges that limit its broad use. After consulting with the piano players and organists in our congregation, it is our opinion that none of the other pianos currently owned by FUMC are suitable for worship quality as an in-kind replacement.

FUMC Music Ministry Goals

1. Allow music to become a powerful, positive, unifying force in the life of the church.
2. Create a positive attitude that enables and engages the congregation in an attitude of worship.
3. Make music fun and inviting to all ages.
4. Allow others to experience and express their spiritual gifts for music.
5. Make music a vehicle for discipleship and spiritual renewal.
6. Engage others the community through the celebration of music.

II. Proposal

In early January of this year, Worship Comm. asked Karen Young to begin a search for a piano replacement. Karen Young teaches piano from her home and at Marietta College and is both knowledgeable of piano quality and connected to piano suppliers.

Thanks to Karen's work, we have located a 1933 Steinway Grand piano in Athens, OH. Karen Young has played the piano and is confident of the quality of the instrument. The asking price is currently \$22,000 but a reasonable asking price may be \$19,000. This piano was refurbished in 2004 but has not been played very much since then if at all. Below are the details about the piano as found in an on-line advertisement.

It is the recommendation of the Worship Comm. that First United Methodist Church purchase this 1933 Steinway as the primary piano in the Sanctuary. While we do not know the total cost to the church when all the fundraising is complete, we ask the church leadership to underwrite the cost of the piano assuming the financing below is accurate and complete.

In order to make room for a piano of this size, both the seats and risers in the choir loft will need to be removed.

1933 Steinway "M" Grand Piano

Serial: 275614

Satin ebony finish

Restored at Steinway Hall-Akron. 715 E Buchtel Ave Akron, OH

Restoration took 6 months (April 04'-October 04')

Everything but the soundboard has been replaced

Included is a Damp-chaser Piano Humidity control system and cover

Asking Price \$22,500 (OBO)

Logan Cull (740) 415-8809 , cullo423@gmail.com

III. Financing

Piano Cost: \$22,000 - \$19,000
Moving Cost: ~ \$500
New Bench: ~\$500

Total Cost \$23,000 – \$20,000

Private Donation - \$10,000
Siddell Mem. Fund - \$4,500

Cost from Reserves \$8,500 – \$5,500

Fund Raising Efforts: Allen Sexton, Janet Hasty, and Karen Young will speak to the congregation about the merits of the new piano, answer questions, and invite the congregation to participate in the new piano purchase with a private donation. Fund Raising envelopes will be included in Sunday’s bulletin, [4/5/09]

BLUEBOOK OF PIANOS



PIANO INFORMATION NETWORK

This site is designed to provide prospective piano buyers with an unbiased point of view into the purchase of a piano without weighing them down with mind-numbing techno-babble. There's more to a piano than just the brand, type and size. This guide is directed to the interests and guidance of the prospective piano buyer, it is an objective, non-slanted, and a third party approach which can serve to reinforce a consumer's interest in a piano.

Price is often the key to quality in pianos. But some factors do affect the price without affecting the quality. Prices change very frequently due to international currency fluctuations. Transportation expenses may also increase the cost to you and do not include freight or destination charges. There are no two markets that are exactly alike, and retail prices are set by individual dealers. Prices shown are approximate and will vary from dealer to dealer. This list is current models for the lowest-priced style and finishes. This listing and does not include the many furniture styles and finishes available. Any such price list would only cause confusion in the marketplace. These are not manufacturers suggested list prices.

Vertical Pianos

4510	45"	Sheraton Satin Ebony	20,600
4510	45"	Sheraton Mahogany	22,900
4510	45"	Sheraton Walnut	23,900
4510	45"	Sheraton Dark Cherry	25,400
4510	45"	Sheraton Macassar Ebony	30,300
4510	45"	Sheraton Marbelized	29,200
1098	46½"	Satin Ebony	19,300
1098	46½"	Mahogany	21,100
1098	46½"	Walnut	21,900
1098	46½"	Dark Cherry	22,900
1098	46½"	Marbelized	27,100
K-52	52"	Satin Ebony	25,300
K-52	52"	Mahogany	28,700
K-52	52"	Walnut	29,700
K-52	52"	East Indian Rosewood	37,100
K-52	52"	Marbelized	35,100

Grand Pianos

S	5' 1"	SatinEbony	42,100
S	5' 1"	Mahogany	47,200
S	5' 1"	Walnut	49,100
S	5' 1"	Figured Sapele	51,600
S	5' 1"	DarkCherry	52,100
S	5' 1"	Kewazinga Bubinga	53,700
S	5' 1"	Santos Rosewood	59,700
S	5' 1"	East Indian Rosewood	60,300
S	5' 1"	African Pommele	60,700
S	5' 1"	Macassar Ebony	66,400
S	5' 1"	Marbelized	59,700
S	5' 1"	Chinoiserie	57,700
S	5' 1"	Hepplewhite Dark Cherry	54,700
M	5' 7"	Satin Ebony	48,300
M	5' 7"	Mahogany	54,100
M	5' 7"	Walnut	56,100
M	5' 7"	Figured Sapele	57,800
M	5' 7"	Dark Cherry	59,400
M	5' 7"	Kewazinga Bubinga	60,700
M	5' 7"	Santos Rosewood	66,400
M	5' 7"	East Indian Rosewood	67,400
M	5' 7"	African Pommele	67,900
M	5' 7"	Macassar Ebony	74,500
M	5' 7"	Marbelized	67,100
M	5' 7"	Chinoiserie	63,900
M	5' 7"	Hepplewhite Dark Cherry	62,100
M 1014A	5' 7"	Chippendale Mahogany	67,800
M 1014A	5' 7"	Chippendale Walnut	69,500
M 501A	5' 7"	Louis XV Walnut	87,400
M 501A	5' 7"	Louis XV East Indian Rosewood	101,800
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Steinway & Sons Hamburg by request only.