

UUF of Burlington Minutes: November 15, 2006

Present: Roger Mohr, Linda Gidley, Carolyn West, Rick Johnson, Lori Strait, Amy Oetken & Ben Moser

Minutes from the November 15th meeting were emailed by Amy to each council member previous to this meeting. Rick motioned that the minutes be approved, Carolyn seconded, motion carried.

Discussion was held pertaining to posting the approved minutes on the UU website. Material deemed inappropriate for the website will be discussed and possibly removed before the minutes are posted. A motion was made to begin posting each month's council minutes on the website, beginning with the October 18th minutes. Rick moved to accept the motion, Amy seconded, motion carried.

1) Treasurer's Report presented by Rick Johnson

\$3,200.00 has been collected toward the purchase of the new chairs and final payment has been made. The budget also reflects that the fellowship is ahead in pledges compared to this time last year.

A motion was made to approve the budget. Carolyn moved to accept the motion, Lori seconded, motion carried.

2) Minister's Report presented by Roger Mohr

November was a month of much accomplishment. Roger was involved in two Operational Group meetings, planned and participated in the Start-up workshop, led the drum circle, held Dinner-and-a-Movie, led the youth group meeting, spoke to Alternative School students, as well as performed four Sunday services.

Roger is keeping the tracking report of attendance up to date and it is now available if anyone is interested. This season of the year is typically a time of growth for many churches. There are several prospective members coming onboard. Membership classes for new members are now underway. These classes are also open to anyone in the congregation if they would like to attend.

3) Operational Group Report

The council was presented with minutes from both the October 23rd and November 6th Operational Group meetings. Roger reported that this is a great system for getting tasks accomplished and people are feeling good about it. The group will identify and resolve operational issues, as well as identify and clarify opportunities for higher operational functioning.

4) Miscellaneous Reports

Volunteers are working on a float for the annual lighted holiday parade to be held on November 25th in downtown Burlington. This will be an excellent way to promote an awareness of the UU Fellowship and these volunteers are greatly appreciated.

Lori continues to do a super job working on the directory. She is updating the mail/e-mail list, and also taking pictures of members for the new directory. We look forward to the finished product!

5) Old Business

Ben reported that the Keokuk room rental issue has been resolved and is under control.

6) New Business

The issue of replacing our present inefficient boiler heating system (60% efficiency) with a new energy-efficient (92-95%) furnace and central air system was brought to the council. Per Roger's request, Jim Hilkin, Gary Smith and Loren Ratekin sought estimates from Arnold's Refrigeration, Brockway Company, and Frank Millard & Company. Because it takes so much energy to raise the building's temperature even two to four degrees, one contractor suggested we operate the boiler at a constant temperature 24 hours a day, which in turn wastes natural gas. The new system would include a furnace on both floors, leading to more control and efficiency by reducing heat upstairs when that area is not in use.

The fellowship's gas bill from July 2005 to June 2006 was \$3,635.64. With the increased efficiency of a new system, savings would be approximately \$1,100.00 a year. Using these calculations, a new system would pay for itself in about 15 years.

Funding for a new system was then discussed. The council was presented with estimates from the three local contractors previously mentioned. Financing options include using money in the emergency fund, the capital fund, or the endowment fund; or simply borrowing a portion of the money and taking out a loan so the capital fund does not become depleted.

Since this is not an emergency situation, the council wishes to consider the options very carefully. The present boiler could last a long time yet, but it still would be very inefficient. It was also mentioned that we need to keep our renters comfortable and satisfied with the temperature within the building.

Rick made a motion to approve up to \$17,000.00 which could be expended for the purchase of a new system from Arnold Refrigeration, the lowest bidder. This amount includes the removal of a wall and necessary construction upstairs to accommodate the new system. Carolyn seconded the motion, all approved.

The committee of Jim, Gary and Loren can now go ahead and investigate the financial options available to the congregation. If they are not comfortable with this arrangement, or feel they need more input from the council, they may certainly return for more discussion.

6) Adjournment at 7:51 p.m.

Rick moved that we adjourn; seconded by Carolyn, all approved.

Next meeting: December 20th at 7:00 p.m. (3rd Wednesday of the month)