

UUF of Burlington Minutes: January 17, 2007

Present: Roger Mohr, Linda Gidley, Rick Johnson, Lori Strait, Amy Oetken, Ben Moser & Marek Patejak.

The council received this evening's agenda. Rick motioned that the agenda be approved, Amy seconded, motion carried.

Minutes from the December 20th meeting were emailed by Amy to each council member previous to this meeting. Rick motioned that the minutes be approved and posted to the web site, Ben seconded, motion carried.

1) Treasurer's Report presented by Rick Johnson

The Board was presented with the budget report from July 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006. Under the category of Building & Grounds, building repair is shown as being \$3556.45 over the budgeted amount. Approximately \$766.00 is currently owed for the purchase of two furnaces and a central air conditioning unit for the UU Fellowship building. Rick reported that a few contributions have been received and earmarked for the new system. Even though we are over budget in this area, the situation is not bad considering the unplanned expenditures for the furnaces, as well as the chairs. A motion was made to approve the budget. Lori moved to accept the motion, Ben seconded, motion carried.

2) Minister's Report presented by Roger Mohr

Attendance continues to increase. Roger, Lisa and the congregation welcomed eight new members at the January 7th service entitled "Beginning Again." Roger also initiated his evaluation process, performed three pastoral visits, and assisted a colleague in updating his ministerial record in pursuit of new settlement. Normal activities have been disrupted the past few weeks due to the holidays, loss of the furnace, and inclement weather. We look forward to the return of life as the congregation knew it!

3) Operations Group Report

The Operations Group was unable to meet at their scheduled time and day due to ice and snow.

4) Old Business

Installation of the new heating/air system continues to dominate as Old Business. The system is in place and functioning nicely. Gary Smith was in attendance in order to update the council concerning the furnace/construction process. A state inspector came to the building today to make sure the old boiler was disconnected properly, and John Dahl will plan on removing it at some point. Construction needed to accommodate the new furnaces and ductwork continues to efficiently progress thanks to Gary Gidley. Installation costs for the new system and construction of miscellaneous items put the council \$2800.00 above the anticipated cost. As the new furnace required changing walls downstairs, additions/updates have included new cupboards, the addition of electrical outlets, lighting, and shelving for a future PA system. Additional electrical outlets for the kitchen/new counter area are desperately needed. Our circuit box is working to capacity and new circuits need to be added to handle more outlets. We will have a severe lack of electricity access if we do not include the outlets.

This is also the best time to increase the number of outlets as the area is open and accessible. Since the fellowship is a commercial establishment according to code, a licensed electrician will need to do the electrical work. There is also a minor code violation which will need to be fixed. The cost involved in hiring an electrician is approximately \$1000.00 and is reflected in the cost mentioned above.

A sound system upgrade will probably be an item of interest in the future as the congregation continues to grow. In order to prepare and plan for this expansion, it makes sense to go ahead and perform the needed sound system wiring. This cost will include the addition of a snake line which will allow the use of multiple microphones without having to run separate wires to every microphone.

#### 5) New Business

Discussion of the Sound System upgrade continued as New Business. A representative from Mundt Piano is scheduled to come in and assess the acoustics of our building, as well as discuss the benefit of a snake line for the sound system. An entry level snake starts at \$265.00 and would probably work for us. After the snake is installed, we can do other upgrades at a later date (probably next year's budget). It's just much more convenient to install the snake at this point of the construction phase. Future additions to the sound system may include a sound mixing board, an amplifier and tape deck. Nomination of new council members was discussed. Positions open will be treasurer, an at-large position, and president. Linda has graciously agreed to run as our president again for a two year term. She is currently serving out our former president's second year. The treasurer position continues to be a concern as Rick's term ends July 1st. An official nominating committee will be formed. Roger would like to be involved in the process as well. A motion was made to appoint Gary Smith as lead chair on the nominating committee. Rick will also serve on the committee, and Roger will be included as an exofficio member. Ben moved to accept the motion, Lori seconded, motion carried.

There are three council meetings left until pledge kick-off Sunday. Discussion was held regarding the type of campaign to conduct. One option would be to do a full member canvass. This method involves personal interviews with each family or giving unit. This, however, is a huge project and we may not even have the resources to perform this type of canvass. It's probably too late at this point to even consider such an undertaking. A commitment Sunday featuring testimonials may be more appropriate instead. The operations committee may be asked to pursue the pledge campaign.

The council recently became aware that Roger's evaluation is due to be completed soon. Council members will be emailed the evaluation form and will forward their comments to Ben, who offered to compile the information. This will need to be finished by January 26th.

A master operations calendar would be very helpful in tracking events which take place at the same time every year. An example would be Roger's evaluation. If a master calendar existed, the council would have known further ahead about the impending deadline and would not have had to finish it with such a close deadline looming. Amy will compile the information as it is received. Ten minutes of February's council meeting will be allotted for noting some of these yearly events and items. The operations group may actually prepare the calendar after information is gathered.

6) Adjournment at 7:56 p.m.

Next meeting: February 21st at 7:00 p.m. (3rd Wednesday of the month)