

UUF of Burlington Minutes: February 21, 2007

Present: Roger Mohr, Linda Gidley, Lori Strait, Amy Oetken, Carolyn West, & Marek Patejak.

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

Minutes from the January 17th meeting were emailed by Amy to each council member previous to this meeting. A change in wording needs to be made as Linda is serving the second year of a two year term as president, and has agreed to run for a second two year term. Marek motioned that the minutes be approved and posted to the web site as amended, Lori seconded, motion carried.

1) Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was not available as Rick was absent.

2) Minister's Report presented by Roger Mohr

Roger performed six Sunday services between January 21 and February 18, led the operations group meeting, led drum circle, performed mid-year self-evaluation, attended Hawkeye Cluster Ministers' meeting and conducted pastoral visits. He also led the youth group meeting, planned events for the remainder of the year, including the youth conference Feb. 23-25, and the intergenerational retreat on May 12.

3) Operations Group Report

The council received the February 5th Operations Group agenda. Gary Smith and John Rutenbeck will co-chair the pledge drive on Pledge Sunday; Lori Strait will begin to assemble data for creation of a new phone tree; Roger demonstrated a possible new chair and pulpit arrangement which was introduced on February 11 and affirmed as an improvement.

4) Old Business

Council nominations were discussed. At present, Carolyn West is a candidate for treasurer, with Melinda Smith nominated as assistant treasurer. Nominations are still needed for an at large member.

5) New Business

In Rick's absence, Linda addressed the Investment Policy. The possibility of investing some of the fellowship's funds was discussed as a way to see a better return on some of the fellowship's savings. Questions were raised as to whether the council has the expertise to play the market or are we even comfortable doing our own investing? A finance committee composed of a broad representation of people from the congregation who are experienced enough in investing to make recommendations would be one option. Roger will make some suggestions at next month's council meeting.

Membership Count - Work continues in an effort to establish an accurate membership count. According to our bylaws, a member is defined as someone who has been active in the congregation within the past two years. This includes being financially active even though they may not actually attend. The treasurer will be better able to make those determinations from the records. The membership book then needs to be correlated with the treasurer's report. The bylaws state that in order to qualify someone as being

an inactive member, they must be notified of this fact and must agree in writing that they will be eliminated from our master list of members.

Evaluation Process - Roger's evaluation does not need to be completed until September. The council will need to consider this in July or August and meet for consideration and input.

Membership, Outreach and Growth Strategy - Roger expressed that in order to grow as a congregation, we need to understand where we are going and where we want to be.

Understanding in the areas of who we are trying to reach, what's important and who do we attract needs to be attained. We need to define our common interests and get a clearer idea of who we are. Our principles are partially what attracts new members.

Operations Calendar - Information continues to be gathered with a goal of compiling yearly activities and events into a general operations calendar. The accessibility of this information would certainly make for a much smoother operation. The council brainstormed for a few minutes and listed many events which take place every year and generally at the same time each year. Work will continue on this effort.

6) Adjournment at 7:50 p.m.

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