

MINUTES - SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
8/30/17

Present: Angie Bowland, Trina Priese, Barbara Gadon, Allison Hibbs, David Cox, Todd Stark, Camille Novak, Karen Fuchs via phone

NOTE: We have a quorum.

Guests: Pamela Hermann, Jerry Krull, Gene & Nancy Hutchins

Summary of presentation to board by Rev. Barbara:

Stewardship and Finance team helped to prepare the presentation shared. This team is helping to look at patterns, Things have changed since last Spring when we approved the budget. If the budget has changed more than 5%, Board will need to review and re-approve the budget, which is the cause for the meeting.

On May 9, board approved a budget for '17-'18 with \$650,000. We ended up \$24,000 short for '16-'17 budget and when added to the \$76,000 we needed to raise for '17-'18 it seemed intimidating.

The feeling is that the congregation needs to be informed. After careful review, Rev. Barbara has cut the Membership coordinator (\$8,300) and found an additional \$3,000 that was removed. Now we need \$88,000 to balance the budget.

A page is provided to show *Drastic Cuts Options* which include reductions in staff, programming, reserves for 6 months, etc. In an effort to keep from having to proceed with cuts which will inevitably end up in less programming, lower satisfaction and less giving in the future, we need to raise some funds. Part of giving should be fun, connecting with people. Some are concerned about the labor an auction would take to generate \$20k.

Barbara thinks that we need a Congregational Meeting, on September 17, but calling the meeting is a board function. Barbara would present the information we have here, including the *Drastic Cuts Options* document. She is planning to ask for an increase in everyone's pledge and hopefully create a shift in perspective. Then ask people for comments. Congregants need to know it's serious.

The way we currently raise money is pretty impersonal. We should probably be more relational and thankful, having a more one-to-one conversation with select people for the next campaign.

Decisions:

- David called a congregational meeting on September 17 at 12:30 in the Chapel.
- Motion to accept 2017-18 “Reduced Pledges” budget as presented by Rev. Gadon. Trina/Todd

Action:

- Barbara & Stewardship team will coordinate the details of the meeting and communicate.
- By next board meeting, have the Commitments from Leadership form filled out.

Guests:

- Nancy Q: when did it become acceptable to join the meeting by phone?
 - David A: It is not called out in our bylaws one way or another and since Karen was sick and unable to attend this last minute meeting, she called in.
- Pamela will refer her questions to the committee.
- Jerry was very grateful and agrees that we are doing the right thing.
- Gene Q: what is FECA (Facilities Equipment Condition Assessment to set aside money for repair and replacement of significant infrastructure)
- Nancy - there is a trust issue and folks are questioning the purchase of the next door property.