

Congregation Conversation Meeting
Minutes
Sunday, March 4, 2007, 12:45pm

Old Business

(1) Stewardship / Canvass Dinner

Sharon Alexander read correspondence she sent to Co-Chairs of the Stewardship Committee, Carrie Cornwell and Tina Stidman, regarding invitations that were sent to 130 members who had been designated as 'Leadership Givers' to attend an afternoon reception on February 3, and that the ethical issue of differentiating members based on the amount of their pledge was not addressed in their response.

Discussion followed, with some finding the process not a problem considering our fund raising issues. Others suggesting the efforts of volunteers were not considered as contributions with monetary value, as well as due consideration for the percentage of income represented by volunteers' pledges.

Suggestions: Sharon suggested an early party for those who pledge early, and establishing a Matching pool or a "Match-Stretch" effort. She asked how others can contribute their ideas for fund-raising, and if we might find other ways to show appreciation rather than a party. Judy Morrison advised that Pledge Drives are established by the team leaders.

(2) Building Use Policy Finalization

Kate reported that she sent a copy of the policy to Esther Franklin, as requested. She suggested that comments regarding the Policy be received at the next Congregational Conversation, April 1st, and then sent to the Board before final approval. Sharon asks that this be the major agenda item and that these Minutes and the next April Agenda be posted to the UUSS website.

New Business

(1) Real Estate Ownership. Kate presented a long history of written reports and consultations regarding maintenance and possible uses of the UUSS rentals. Reports ranged from a 1989 Building Plan Update, to a 1996 Master Plan Update.

Currently there are three sources of income to UUSS: 1)* Building Use Rentals, 2) Pledges and 3) Fundraisers. Kate displayed a map outlining the UUSS campus boundaries and the two lots that contain the duplexes.

Discussion followed about the type of maintenance work that is needed and the cost of repairs, described as "stunning" and being 3 - 4 times more costly now than when calculated ten years ago.

Sale of the duplexes may require a lot split. The location of the duplex lots to the UUSS RE and Auditorium are a concern for any potential sale. Eileen suggested co-housing or co-op housing be built for senior UUs. *(Policy and Procedures for Renters can be obtained from the Business Administrator, David McMorris.)

(2) Consideration about future growth of membership numbers was mentioned, with an agreement from Doug and Kate that infrastructure is our limitation. Creating offshoot groups in the community was mentioned, with the reply that the effort would most likely drain the main church and make it weaker.

(3) Shirley Hewitt asked how items are placed before the congregation for voting at the up-coming meeting. Kate referred her to the By-Laws, requesting that a copy be sent to Shirley. Terry pointed out that members might call a special meeting, which means, in this case, no need to get signatures for a voting item to be presented to the congregation.

The meeting closed with Kate suggesting the discussions be continued, as time permits, at the next meeting, April 1, 2007. Other brainstorming sessions need to be arranged in the future.

Meeting extended and then adjourned at 1:40.

Linda Hoganson