

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

July 9, 2007

Present: Rev. Gordon Forbes, Rev. Jim Todhunter, Rev. Sandy Dodson, Dianne Abraham, Nae Pearson, Judy Cox, Sue Dollins, Trish Esposito, Jan Forbes, Pete Hotchkiss, Dave Main, Jim O'Steen, Cynthia Page, Dan Pence, Alison Petersen, Ruth Prindle, Doris Raber, Kate Rogers, Leslie Weyn, Carey White, Tim White, Anne Weissenborn, Leslie Weyn, Leslie Wilson.

Moderator Rev. Gordon Forbes called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 p.m. Rev. Jim Todhunter opened the meeting with a time of silence. Jim then shared some reflections on the past year. He said that this has been a time of grief, loss, letting go, and saying goodbye. He said that he has been working with the Deacons on the worship service for July 29, which will be his last as CCC's senior minister. Jim said that he wants that service to be a time for him to bless the congregation and for the congregation to bless him.

Policy on Retired Clergy--Trish Esposito made the following motion:

That the paper "On the Conduct of Retired Clergy," by Rev. Jim Todhunter be considered as a policy and recommended as a guideline for other exiting clergy.

Sue Dollins seconded the motion. There was discussion. Cynthia Page affirmed that the sentiments and statements in the paper are right for Jim and for CCC at this time. But, she said, perhaps the guidelines may not have universal applicability. Rev. Gordon Forbes asked whether the Council thought it best to refer the paper to the Personnel Committee for further study. Rev. Jim Todhunter said that he wanted the policy to be immediately available to the congregation. Tim White moved to amend the motion, and Trish accepted the amendment as friendly. The motion as amended was:

That the Council accept and affirm the paper "On the Conduct of Retired Clergy" as defining our relationship with Rev. Jim Todhunter, and recommend it as a guideline for other exiting clergy.

The motion, as amended, passed without objection. After the vote on the motion, Rev. Jim Todhunter took his leave of the Council.

Minutes—The minutes of the Council's June 4 meeting were approved, as corrected.

Rev. Gordon Forbes presented proposed dates for Executive Council and Board meetings

for the coming church year. He suggested that the Council hold its retreat in October, after an interim minister is hired. The Council agreed with that suggestion.

Time and Talent Pledges – Trish Esposito distributed a handout summarizing the results of the time and talent portion of the annual stewardship campaign. Trish noted how many CCC members are giving of their time and talent. Yet, Trish said, there remain many slots to fill. There is a particular need for at least one assistant financial secretary, and the Board of Deacons still has several positions to fill. Trish said that it will be particularly important to have the Deacons' positions filled during the interim period. The Nominating Committee is continuing to make telephone calls and will also have a representative at the small group sign-up event for recruiting.

Updates—Ministers, Boards, Committees

Nominating Committee--Trish Esposito moved acceptance of the Nominating Committee's report concerning changes to leadership. Tim White seconded the motion. Trish said that many positions still remain to be filled. She reported that Jackie Walters will resign as NewsNotes editor in June 2008. Joanne Dennie will take over as Chair of the Ruth Richardson Scholarship Committee in June 2008. The Nominating Committee continues to look for someone to take over the position of Clerk of the Rolls. The motion to accept the Nominating Committee report passed without objection.

Board of Trustees—Tim White presented an update on the budget. He said that perhaps the Trustees had been too enthusiastic in predicting CCC's income. Tim reminded the Council that, at the annual meeting, the congregation accepted a budget with a deficit of \$5,000. With current projections, it now looks more like a \$40,000 deficit, Tim said. He reviewed the status of pledging. There were 52 reduced pledges (out of a total of 203 pledging units), with a net effect of \$66,000. The possible confusion about pledging to the capital budget and the effect of the “dollar -a-day” campaign seem to account for most of the reduced pledges, according to Tim. Tim said that 33 pledge units had not yet pledged, and he estimated that those pledges might account for about \$50,000. Dave Main reported that, based on more recent information, there were now 28 pledge units that have not yet pledged. Tim said that he wanted to invite discussion of how CCC should respond. The budget is not just the responsibility of the Board for Stewardship or Trustees, Tim said. He said we have basically two choices. On one hand, we can try to raise at least \$40,000, perhaps by embarking on another capital campaign. Our other choice is to reduce expenses by \$40,000. Cutting the budget would further shrink what we are able to do, as we would likely have to cut mission, program, and possibly maintenance. Rev. Gordon Forbes said that, at the June 25 meeting, the Trustees suggested making personal calls on those who have not yet pledged. Gordon, Tim, Dave Main, Alison Petersen, and Trish Esposito

will meet again to plan for the calling. Cynthia Page said that she was in favor of more personal contacts. Pete Hotchkiss observed that we needed to raise \$50,000 extra for this church year, because last year's capital budget was aided by a one-time carryover of \$50,000. Pete said that it would be important for anyone calling on members to find out why people would reduce pledging to the capital budget. Dave Main said that no-one understands the unified budget. Tim said that we have a need or wish to fund the aspirations that came out of the budget visioning and strategic planning processes. If we fully funded all budget requests, CCC would have a budget of \$1,000,000, Tim said. Dave said that CCC has never raised the full amount we wished for. Pete wondered whether the shortfall in pledging was the result of lack of information or a conscious decision on the part of those pledging. He suggested sending out letters reminding people what they pledged last year. Nae Pearson suggested that we consider making home visits.

Board for Stewardship—Continuing the discussion on the budget shortfall, Alison Peterson reviewed the history of this year's stewardship campaign. Stewardship packets were mailed in April, and Consecration Sunday was April 29. Alison said that the Board has had good response to one-on-one contacts. She reported that pastoral calls will be made to those units who have not yet pledged. The Board will meet to decide how and who to contact. Dan Pence said that those who didn't pledge to the capital budget should be contacted.

Board of Christian Education—Jan Forbes reported that 89 teachers were needed for the fall. She reported that 79 teachers have already been recruited. Jan said that Safe Church training will take place on September 8 from 1-4 p.m. This training is for all volunteers who work with children, youth, and vulnerable adults.

Retreat House Task Force—Leslie Wilson moved that the Council approve the proposal for the fundraising proposal outlined in the memo from the Task Force to the Council (copy attached). Dan Pence seconded the motion. Nae Pearson asked whether there was still a subcommittee of the Council tasked with approving special fundraising requests. Trish Esposito responded that the subcommittee would need to be reconstituted for this church year. Tim White said that the Board of Trustees recognizes that the Council has authority to approve the request. Dave Main suggested that we should provide opportunities for people to contribute to the Retreat House Restoration Fund without having to buy something. Rev. Gordon Forbes said that because the Retreat House restoration is part of CCC's strategic visioning, so we should make an effort to see that it gets funded. The motion to approve the special fundraising passed without objection.

Interim Search Committee—Rev. Gordon Forbes reported that the committee has identified two serious candidates for the position of interim minister. The two candidates have very different leadership styles. The committee will interview the

candidates in the next two weeks. Sunday worship for August and September is covered. Rev. Sandy Dodson will preach, as will Gordon, Bob Robey, Vicki Kemper, and Richard Jaeggi. Also, M.J. and Jerry Park will lead a service with the children and youth who participated in the Peace Camp. Sandy will be the pastoral “first responder” until an interim minister is hired. A new group of Called to Care volunteers will be commissioned on September 16.

Senior Minister Search Committee—Rev. Gordon Forbes reminded the Council of the decision to try to recruit a tenth member for the Senior Minister Search Committee. Gordon reported that Elaine Kim had agreed to serve on the committee. The full committee will consist of: Tom Ault, Merlene Bagley, Kristen Brown, John Gipson, Allen Hill, Maureen Ingram, Elaine Kim, Bob Robey, Tim White, and Nicole Wilson and Elise Gifford (youths sharing one vote). Gordon said that the committee will select its co-chairs. Dave Main moved that the Council approve the membership of the Senior Minister Search Committee. Dan Pence seconded the motion. The motion passed without objection.

Personnel Committee—Rev. Gordon Forbes reported that the committee will hold the Safe Church training in September. Also, the committee has completed the evaluation of Rev. Sandy Dodson.

Technology Committee—Dianne Abraham requested that each person who received a technology questionnaire respond. She also asked the Council to consider what types of data it might need. She asked that responses be directed to Bud Dennie.

Board for Social Witness—Anne Weissenborn reported that the Board will not be meeting until its retreat in September. Anne also expressed relief that further cuts to mission giving had not been proposed as part of the budget discussion.

Celebrations—Sue Dollins reported that 200 guests were expected to attend the banquet in honor of Rev. Jim Todhunter's retirement. There will be a cocktail hour. Everything is ready; the committee is very excited.

Staff Reports—Rev. Sandy Dodson reported that the staff is continuing to prepare for the departure of Rev. Jim Todhunter. The staff meets daily. The Transition Committee is helping Sandy by serving as a support group, and it may ultimately turn into a pastor-parish relations committee. Nae Pearson reported that he returned from vacation rested and ready to get back to work. Summer Sundays are all booked. The choir will tour Scandinavia and Russia in 2008, and Nae said there are spaces available for singers and non-singers. Dianne Abraham reported that the church continues to be busy. Many groups have signed up for September.

Dianne reported that on July 1, after a police chase, a car flipped on Route 29 and damaged the church's front steps. Dianne also said that the new weekend custodian has started work and seems to be happy.

Status of the CCC Covenant—Rev. Gordon Forbes reported that there has not yet been a vote on changing the covenant. Gordon reported that some controversy has arisen. Some people have wondered what prompted the proposal to change the covenant. Some newer members are not sure why we have a covenant. Gordon said he will do a brief presentation on the history of covenants on September 16, in conjunction with both services, and on Wednesday evening. The covenant we have is from 1913. After Gordon makes his presentations, we will decide when to hold a congregational meeting. Dave Main said he will ask Bob Brown, Marilyn Meyer, and Nancy Kosinski to participate in the briefings because they were involved in adopting the current CCC covenant. Cynthia Page asked whether child care will be provided for the briefings. Rev. Sandy Dodson said that Alison Petersen and Anne Keeler are looking into the child care issue for Sundays in the fall.

Physician Assistance in Dying—Rev. Gordon Forbes reported that Bill Neal had done an excellent job in presenting the issue at the CAC annual meeting. Gordon said that Bill had also presented one workshop at CCC on the issue, but that it had unfortunately turned into a shouting match. Cynthia Page said that perhaps we need to explore a way to offer a more balanced presentation that would offer differing views. Pete Hotchkiss said he would be against forcing the issue. There should be no firm timeline, Pete said. Rev. Sandy Dodson and Anne Weissenborn agreed that the Board for Social Witness is the best forum for this issue for now. It was the consensus of the Council that the issue be referred to the Board for Social Witness.

Strategic Goals—Rev. Gordon Forbes asked that Boards discuss the strategic goals in their meetings. Gordon said that the Council will also discuss the goals at each meeting, so that we can monitor how we are doing.

Tim White presented a certificate of appreciation for CCC's contributions to the denomination.

Nae Pearson closed the meeting with a chant and Rev. Gordon Forbes adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Weyn
Church Clerk