

Executive Council Minutes July 7, 2008

Present: Rev. Susan Henderson, Rev. Sandy Dodson, Trish Esposito, Dave Ackerman, Marian Dirda, Tom Gustafson, Pete Hotchkiss, Pete Macleod, Dave Main, Greg Muncill, Kate Rogers, Jackie Walters, Anne Weissenborn, Leslie Weyn, Tim White.

Moderator Trish Esposito called the meeting to order at approximately 7:36. Rev. Susan Henderson invited those present to share a reminiscence about their favorite birthday celebration.

Dave Ackerman moved that the minutes of the Council's June meeting be accepted, as corrected. Jackie Walters seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

Trish Esposito proposed that the minutes of Executive Council meetings, as well as those of Boards, be distributed to the Church office following approval. The Church office will maintain the official files and forward an electronic version for posting on the Church website, Trish said.

Planning for Healing Service and Celebration of Ministry

Tim White gave a follow-up report on the Council's special meeting on June 26, 2008, which concerned an issue that was raised as part of the Interim process. Tim said he is meeting with a committee, consisting of Judy Cox, Dave Main, Jim O'Steen, and Ruth Prindle, to plan a congregational process that will pave the way for an open and healthy celebration of CCC's ministries on October 12, 2008. Tim said that the process may involve small group meetings to give members of the congregation the opportunity to bring forward any areas of concern that may be in need of healing prior to the celebration. Following such opportunities, a service of healing will be planned. Rev. Susan Henderson said that, in planning for the service of healing, it will be her role to make clear that no issues of concern or failings of the Church and its ministries will be swept under the rug. Trish Esposito noted that the minutes of the Council's special meeting will become part of the Church's official records. Pete Hotchkiss observed that it was part of the Council's proper role to act with regard to confidential information.

Alcohol Use Policy

Trish Esposito reported that Dianne Abraham has recommended that the Church have an official policy on alcohol use for distribution to persons or entities interested in renting the Church building. Rev. Sandy Dodson added that she supports the need for a policy for Church rentals, but that the policy should also cover Church functions both here and at the Retreat House. Sandy said that, in her view, it is important that the rules for the Retreat House be consistent with the Church's commitment to be a "safe church." Sandy recommended that the "no alcohol policy" that applies to youth at the Retreat House should also apply to adult chaperones of youth events. Dave Ackerman summarized that we need to develop an alcohol policy that deals with: 1) children and youth events; 2)

functions at Church; and 3) adult retreats at the Retreat House. Trish asked the Board of Trustees and the Board for Christian Education to confer and report back to the Council with recommendations on the content of an alcohol policy. Sandy said that she will let those involved in summer camp activities know that the Council is working on a policy.

Nominating Committee

Trish Esposito reported that the Nominating Committee has recommended that Jeanne Young be elected to represent CCC as a delegate to the Potomac Association and the Central Atlantic Conference. Jackie Walters **moved that Jeanne Young be elected to that position.** Dave Ackerman seconded the motion, which **passed without objection.**

Resignation of Director of Senior Adult Programming

Trish Esposito reported that Sarah Anders, CCC's Director of Senior Adult Programming, has submitted her resignation, to be effective in May 2009. The Senior Adult Committee is currently working with the Personnel Committee on updating the job description for the position, including a recommendation for the number of hours per week that should be authorized for the position, Trish said. Trish asked that the Board of Trustees acknowledge Sarah's letter of resignation. Rev. Susan Henderson added that the Senior Adults had addressed this issue at their recent half-day retreat. Susan expressed the view that this was the right and ripe time to address the job description for the Director of Senior Adult Programming position. Susan said that it would be wise to consider the need for Senior Adult programming in the context of the broader visioning regarding all staff roles and Church needs that will be part of the Senior Minister search process.

Executive Council Mini-Retreat

Trish Esposito reminded the Council that a Mini-Retreat will be held on July 12, 2008, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Trish said that the retreat will involve both large and small group work and will focus on discerning a process to solicit Congregational input on the direction and structure of CCC's staffing and leadership in preparation for the Senior Minister search. Trish said that the Council will continue to consider these issues on September 13, 2008, when it will hold a 3/4-day retreat.

Fundraising Subcommittee

Trish Esposito invited discussion of whether the Executive Council Subcommittee on Fundraising should be re-authorized for the current Church year. Kate Rogers said that she felt that CCC was missing the boat by not approving more opportunities for fundraising for youth activities. Anne Weissenborn said that individuals who have a proposal for a fund-raising activity often feel that the requirement to request approval from the Subcommittee presents an additional hurdle that can be discouraging to those with a spontaneous idea, and may squelch creative ideas. Dave Ackerman reminded the Council of the history behind the Subcommittee. CCC's Self-Study revealed that there was a recognition that some special fundraising efforts might occasionally be needed or

desirable, but needed to be balanced against CCC's commitment to a Unified Budget, Dave said. Dave added that, in his view, it is critically important that each member of the Congregation have a sense of responsibility for the whole Church budget. Tim White asked the Council to consider what philosophy we want the Subcommittee to implement. Is the role to say "yes" to as many opportunities as possible, or is it to guard the Unified Budget, Tim asked. Rev. Sandy Dodson said that she feels that it is not accurate to say that activities with children and youth that have a fundraising component belong only the fundraising category. Sandy asserted that these activities serve a programming role, as well, in that they offer opportunities for community building and leadership. Trish asked whether the Council wants to re-authorize the Subcommittee. If the Subcommittee is not re-authorized, the Council will have to review the fundraising activities, Trish noted. Pete Hotchkiss said that the Subcommittee should be re-authorized because its role would be too time-consuming and would leave the Council less time to focus on higher level tasks such as planning and visioning. Dave Ackerman reminded the Council that the CCC Constitution says that fundraising outside the Unified Budget should be "occasional." Tom Gustafson agreed and suggested that the Subcommittee consider establishing an expedited process for approving requests. Pete Hotchkiss **moved that the Executive Council re-authorize the formation of the Fundraising Subcommittee, consisting of three members of the Executive Council.** Tom Gustafson seconded the motion. There was discussion in which it was agreed that the Subcommittee is already in existence and, therefore, the motion was unnecessary. Pete **withdrew the motion.** It was the sense of the Council that the Moderator appoint three members to serve on the Fundraising Subcommittee for the current Church year.

Board, Committee, and Staff Reports

Church Profile Committee--Trish Esposito reported that she has a copy of the Profile that was created as part of the 2003 search that resulted in Rev. Sandy Dodson being called as CCC's Associate Minister. Trish said that she is working on recruiting members for the committee.

Trustees--Tom Gustafson reported that the Board of Trustees has scheduled a meeting with Barbara Ott, the Director of the YMCA, for further discussions regarding the possible sale of the property at 9601 Colesville Rd.

Stewardship--Trish Esposito reported that the Stewardship campaign has received 202 pledges for a total of \$695,484. There are 22 pledge units that pledged last year, but have not yet pledged for this year, Trish said.

Christian Education--Rev. Sandy Dodson reported that Chuck Mason has been working on initiatives involving Young Adults. Six Young Adults attended a recent retreat, Sandy said. Sandy also reported that the Board for Christian Education is working on updating its communications to give them a "flashier" look. Finally, Sandy announced that CCC would again offer Peace Camp at Church during the first week in August. Peace Camp has been a great vehicle for neighborhood outreach, Sandy reported. Anne Weissenborn added that adult volunteers are still needed.

Rev. Susan Henderson closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:34.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Weyn
Church Clerk