

## **Final**

### **Executive Council Minutes from Meeting of August 2, 2009**

**Members Present:** Dave Ackerman (At Large), Aldene Ault (Deacons), Tom Ault (Trustees and Search Committee), Tom Gustafson (Clerk), Rosemarie Kelley (CE), Pete Macleod (Outreach & Engagement), Marilyn Meyer (Stewardship), Dan Pence (Treasurer), Marsha Spieth (At Large), Jackie Walters (Communications Officer), Anne Weissenborn (Social Witness and staff), Carolyn West-Gipson (Church Life), Cyndy Wright-Johnson (Moderator-Elect), Tim White (Moderator).

**Others Present:** The Reverend Susan Henderson (Interim Senior Minister), Nae Pearson (Director of Music)

Moderator Tim White convened the meeting at about 7:35. The agenda was accepted.

**Minutes** for the meeting of July 6, 2009, were approved with minor corrections.

**Treasurer:** Dan Pence provided an overview of preliminary financial results for 2008/2009. The budget for the fiscal year included a planned deficit of \$19,644. However, the year ended with a positive balance of \$21,940, for a net shift of \$41,584. Final results wait on resolution of four or five checks that have not yet cleared; if any are voided, the surplus will go up. The results should be finalized by the end of August. Retained earnings to date carried on the books are \$99,879.42.

Aggregate pledge income was at 95 percent of what was pledged, a drop from the historical averages. The surplus did not result from this source, but from savings in expenses and higher than expected income from use of the building and from loose plate.

Tim circulated a sign-up sheet for pre-board worship.

Tim discussed possible dates and times for an **Executive Council retreat**. To avoid conflicts, a date in mid-October or later appears likely. The likely time would be in the 9 AM to 2 PM range. Members discussed several possible sites. Tim will take further counsel and develop a plan for approval at a later meeting.

Tim raised the subject of the **Fund-Raising Subcommittee** of the Council. This group is charged with approving requests for fund-raising activities outside of the unified budget framework. This year, the Subcommittee will consist of Cyndy Wright-Johnson, Dave Ackerman, Marsha Spieth, and a Trustee, the name of whom will be furnished by Tom Ault.

Tim brought up several issues concerning the **relationship of CCC to the UCC**, surrounding questions of how we relate to the national denomination and how we can grow in this relationship. First was a request from the National Setting that we, as a key church, join in donating to support a \$25,000 project for media strategy, presence, and

training, occasioned partly by the transition to the new President, Geoffrey Black. The hope is to get the Reverend Black out to as many churches as possible and also to promote external messaging. The requested funds appear to be mostly for preparation, and further funding may be needed later for execution of the plan. Dan Pence moved that we set a goal of \$1,000 as a contribution, with the money to come from an appeal to the congregation. The motion was seconded and, after some discussion, passed unanimously. Jackie Walters, Anne Weissenborn, and Tim White agreed to serve as an *ad hoc* committee to plan the appeal with staff.

The Council then discussed a denominational stewardship conference in Dallas, October 8 – 10. The cost to attend (including hotel, but not transportation) would be \$500 a person. Members believed sending someone would be desirable, and there was some sentiment for sending two people. Susan Henderson mentioned that we may be able to partner with another church in the Potomac Association. The Board of Stewardship will assess availability of funds within its budget and report back.

Brief discussion followed of the desirability of promoting understanding of UCC polity. This might be part of the retreat agenda.

Caroline West-Gipson discussed plans for a **new photo directory**. The Board of Church Life is prepared to undertake this project but will need help. The tentative plan is to take photos in late Winter/early Spring, with the intent of going to press when a new Senior Minister is called. An update to the non-photo directory is also in the works, with assistance from David Main and Susan Gray, and it should be ready by about September First.

The Council then turned to a discussion of the **organization of CCC**, building on a prior meeting of Susan Henderson and a number of past Moderators. She noted that CCC has a great staff, but that it is not adequate for what we want. If we are not adequately staffed, then we inevitably fall back to earlier organizational models. Staff adequacy for Christian education and outreach are particularly concerning: we are seeing about five new people a month but can't reach out to them effectively. The Council reflected on a diagram of the various boards and committees, which Susan described as "crazy making," even though she has now been here quite a while. She believes that, even though the current organization may be fine, we need new ways of explaining and talking about it and to some extent new ways of working within it – especially considering a new minister will be arriving before long.

Among the concerns Susan noted was that she wants to be able to situate people where they can most thrive within the church, but she cannot do that effectively now. In addition, she finds that it may take several hours to accomplish a simple transaction, such as getting approval for a \$200 expenditure. Further, it is not always clear who has the authority to get staff members to do what they should be doing.

Tim, Gordon Forbes, Trish Esposito, Susan Henderson, and Cyndy Wright-Johnson will get together to talk some more about this issue and bring it back for further discussion with the Council.

Updates:

- The Retreat House Task Force will have a meeting with the Architects August 6 to receive their recommendations about how to move forward with renovation plans. The Council will receive an update at the next meeting.
- Pete MacLeod noted that the Board of Outreach & Engagement is developing plans for the church picnic. They need the other boards to identify people who can speak to what their boards do in order to share with attendees.
- Tom Ault reported that the Search Committee has sent the profile, synopsis, and a draft of the position description to the Central Atlantic Conference. This material will be final in the next couple of weeks; it will go out nationally in mid-August. He expressed thanks to Jackie Walters, Trish, and the Profile Committee for their excellent work.
- Jackie reported on progress on the new web site. It will have the address [www.cccsilverspring.org](http://www.cccsilverspring.org). It is not yet fully populated; boards and committees should let Barry, Trish, or Jackie know about material that should be migrated.

Following a prayer led by Susan, the meeting adjourned at about 9:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Gustafson,  
Church Clerk

*Approved by the Council September 14, 2009*