

Final

**Executive Council
Minutes from Meeting of March 1, 2010**

Members present: Aldene Ault (Deacons), Tom Ault (Trustees and Search Committee), Trish Esposito (Past Moderator), Tom Gustafson (Clerk), Marilyn Hall (Stewardship), Rosemarie Kelley (CE), Cynthia Page (Outreach & Engagement), Dan Pence (Treasurer), Marsha Spieth (At Large), Jackie Walters (Communications Officer), Tim White (Moderator), Cyndy Wright-Johnson (Moderator-elect).

Others present: The Reverend Susan Henderson (Interim Senior Minister), Nae Pearson (Director of Music), Anne Weissenborn (interim staff), Karen Osteen, Lynn White.

Moderator Tim White convened the meeting at 7:40 PM.

Tim started the meeting by reporting a note of thanks had been received from Geoffrey Black for CCC's support of Our Church's Wider Mission.

Tim reported that he, Susan Henderson, and Jeannie Young had attended an Ecclesiastical Council for Kristin Curlee. She did well and was approved for ordination "pending call." She is now discerning where she should go.

Development of the photo directory is going smoothly.

Minutes for the meeting of February 1 were approved with minor corrections.

Tim brought forth the question of establishing the Music Committee and the Parish-Pastoral Relations Committee as standing committees. Karen O'Steen and Nae Pearson summarized the activities of the **Music Committee**. Karen noted some confusion regarding how the committee was supposed to interact with boards and other committees. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Music Committee, as constituted in the charter approved by the Executive Council on June 2, 2008, as a standing committee. The motion was approved.

Attention then turned to the **Pastor-Parish Relations Committee**. Lynn White and Susan Henderson described the committee's activities. Susan urged that the committee members be experienced members of CCC. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Music Committee, as constituted in the charter approved by the Executive Council on June 2, 2008, as a standing committee. The motion was approved.

Tim requested that the constitution and by-laws work group develop a proposal for reflecting the new status of these committees in the by-laws, including recommendations regarding reporting relationships, and present it for consideration at the next meeting of the Council.

Tom Gustafson and Dave Ackerman, who form a work group charged with proposing immediately needed **changes in the church constitution** and by-laws, presented a revised list of constitution changes that reflected input received from the Council at its last meeting. The proposed changes, as described in the February minutes, are largely in two areas: personnel and governance of financial affairs. After brief discussion, it was moved and seconded:

That the Executive Council endorse the amendments to the CCC constitution recommended by the work group on constitution and by-law changes;

That the workgroup be empowered to make minor and technical changes in the amendments;

That the workgroup prepare appropriate materials about the proposed constitutional amendments for presentation to the congregation; and

That the Clerk call a meeting of the congregation for April 11 and present the amendments to the members in accord with Article XIX of the constitution.

The motion passed unanimously.

Jackie Walters addressed the draft **CCC Communications Strategy**. The strategy addresses moving further toward relying on multiple media “platforms,” including increasing the emphasis on web-based communication. Distribution of *News Notes* and “E-Blasts” via e-mail has been well received; only about 20 members request hard copies. We hope to make ourselves more accessible on the web both to members and others, and we hope to choose media that support being a “green” church. Announcements will no longer be included in copies of the bulletin but will be made available by other means. Trish Esposito reported that policies toward use of “social media” such as Facebook are under development. Tim requested reactions from Council members to the strategy; it will be brought up for approval at the April meeting.

Anne Weissenborn reported on activities surrounding the **anti-racist** covenant. During March, work will progress on populating the anti-racist timeline, now posted in the social hall, which goes back to the founding of St. Augustine and which includes a number of landmarks in the history of the congregation, including efforts to desegregate Montgomery General Hospital and the Glen Echo swimming pool.

Tom Ault reported for the **Board of Trustees** regarding activities in connection with stewardship. The Board has prepared a one-pager for the stewardship mailings that will ask for a 15 percent increase in revenue, an admittedly ambitious goal. The church entered this budget year with a deficit budget, and this year has seen unanticipated expenses for additional building needs and snow removal. Although inflation has been low, expenses for utilities and custodial care have increased. Revenues are down: pledge income is lower than expected when the budget was adopted, and both use of building and loose plate are down as well. We will thus largely exhaust this year the carry-over funds from prior years, and we will not be in a position to adopt a budget for next year with a substantial deficit. Just to maintain existing levels of activity, we need more money. Further, movement toward the long-term staffing plan will require adequate funding.

Marilyn Hall reported from the Board of Stewardship on the **stewardship campaign**. The campaign is kicking off, and April 18th will be consecration Sunday. The Board determined to reuse last year's logo.

Tom Ault reported on activities of the **Search Committee**. Six members, in groups of three, had visited the churches of two prospective candidates, and two more visits are planned. The committee will then narrow the field and proceed to in-person interviews. Decisions are expected by mid-April. The committee will work with the Board of Trustees on a compensation package. A "candidating" weekend, during which the leading candidate will be presented to the congregation, will follow; the weekend of May 21 is a possibility.

Cyndy Wright-Johnson reported briefly from the **Nominating Committee**. All boards are represented. She mentioned the need to revive the Technology Committee.

After a prayer led by Susan Henderson, Tim adjourned the meeting at 10:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Gustafson, Church Clerk

Approved April 12, 2010