

Final

**Executive Council
Minutes from Meeting of September 13, 2010**

Lay members present: David Ackerman (At Large), Tom Ault (At Large and Search Committee), Chris Bublitz (Stewardship), John Gipson (Trustees), Tom Gustafson (Clerk), Rosemarie Kelley (CE), Greg Muncill (Financial Secretary), Dan Pence (Treasurer), Jackie Walters (Communications Officer), Tim White (Past Moderator), Cyndy Wright-Johnson (Moderator).

Others present: Richard Thayer (Sustaining Interim Senior Minister), Matthew Nelson.

Moderator Cyndy Wright-Johnson convened the meeting at 7:36 PM.

The Council approved the **minutes** for the meeting of August 2 with minor corrections.

Cyndy circulated a sign-up list for leading worship on board meeting nights. She reiterated the message about sending information about planned events to staff.

Mathew Nelson, on behalf of the Open and Affirming Work Group, discussed the evolving plans for the **Marriage Equality** initiative previously discussed with the Council. The initiative, which has already sparked a number of powerful conversations, is focusing on education, worship, and social witness. The group has drafted a resolution, based on a resolution adopted by the UCC in 2005, in favor of Marriage Equality and plans to seek input from Boards at their next meetings. The worship service on September 26th will focus on the meaning of marriage; an educational session will follow the 10:30 service. The group anticipates bringing the resolution to the congregation for a vote, probably in November. However, they do not wish to pursue the resolution merely to secure a positive vote, but to engage the congregation in the process. The group is very interested in listening deliberately to everyone concerned, particularly those who may have reservations, so that all voices are heard. Some concern was voiced that November may be too soon for the congregation to feel comfortable in addressing an issue of this scope. Matthew asked if the church had any policies regarding commitment ceremonies or equal marriage; no one could think of any.

Tom Ault reported briefly on the activities of the **Senior Minister Search Committee**. The committee had site visits for three candidates in early September and will gather shortly to receive reports and continue its discernment process.

The Council welcomed **Richard Thayer** to his new role as Sustaining Interim Senior Minister. He commented briefly on “getting his sea legs” and on how vital he found the congregation. He noted the need for stepping up to make resources available to sustain our programs and realize our plans.

Cyndy reported that the all-church **picnic** went well. The Council expressed thanks to the Board of Church Life and to Carolyn West-Gipson in particular for their hard work on this event.

The **EC retreat** was set for October 23 from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm, at a site to be announced.

The Council discussed the schedule for next June. Parents and the Board of CE have expressed a strong preference in having church school extend to the end of the public school year, which would mean June 12th. In past years it has more or less concluded by the middle to end of May. June 5th, however, would be the customary date for the **annual meeting** of the congregation, and having the winter schedule with two services on that day would mean a late start to the congregational meeting. After much consideration of possible alternatives, the Council concluded it was best to keep the meeting on that day, but to have a reasonably substantial snack or very light (and quick) lunch available after worship.

Cyndy reported that the staff wanted to have a meeting in January to **plan events for the next church year**, that is July 2011 to June 2012. The Council decided to schedule this meeting from 7:30 to 8:30 on January 24th. All boards and committees should prepare a tentative calendar and bring it to that meeting.

The Council discussed the role of the **technology** committee at some length. The committee has fallen into disuse and attention focused on whether and how it should be reconstituted. Substantial concern was raised about the need to move forward on purchasing new church management software. Richard Thayer will take a lead role in convening a small, ad hoc task group of staff and other users to determine what church management software to buy and to make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. Consideration of how technology issues should be handled in the future was deferred until after resolution of this problem.

Cyndy alerted the Council to a need to address **oversight of summer camp** activities to assure accountability and safety. The Council will consider the possibility of establishing some kind of oversight committee at its next meeting.

Members expressed strong enthusiasm for holding town hall meetings.

Dan reported that the **annual report of the Treasurer** is available in the church office.

John Gipson reported that the Trustees had received a quote for “clean” energy, using 100 percent wind power. We have been offered a two-year contract, which would permit a modest cost savings.

Dave Ackerman asked that a list of board chairs and an updated roster of church leadership (which includes names of board and committee members) be posted on the website.

The Council discussed the possibility of formalizing a call for the “**Minister B**” position relating to children and families.

Jackie reported on the search process for the **Executive Assistant**. She expects the search committee to winnow down an extensive list and proceed to interview about eight candidates.

John Gipson moved that Randy Caswell be **elected** to the Board of Trustees, subject to approval of the Nominating Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

John Gipson went on to note that the **current budget shortfall** of \$50,000 was a “really big deal” that we have to address. Trustees are having a retreat on September 18 that will consider the matter, and John invited the Board of Stewardship to send a representative to that portion of the meeting.

After a brief prayer led by Richard Thayer, Cyndy adjourned the meeting at 9:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Gustafson,
Church Clerk

Approved by the Executive Council, October 4, 2010