

Board of Trustees News

The Board of Trustees met December 12. The following notes are submitted as highlights from that meeting.

Consent Agenda item:

The emergency replacement purchase of an air conditioning/furnace unit for the sanctuary became obvious with the chill during services and workshops. The total replacement cost was \$4,100. The unit had been repaired many times over the last several years and was 14 years old...the existing unit was on its last legs. This investment should provide our congregation with a worshipful environment for another 10+ years. The vote for replacement was unanimous. Unfortunately, the expanded Chaplain Program has been cancelled for the time being, since no one was available for the training. Instead, Kate has created a team to meet for prayer before each Sunday service. I was hopeful that the Chaplain Program would help with the pastoral needs of our church. This very critical program is needed to retain and build our church family. Please hold our future church chaplains in your thoughts and prayers, as our prayer team grows and expands.

Staffing issues were discussed, and adjustments to the budget will be made (for next year) to expand the hours for Carol and Denise. I do not know how to thank them enough for all that they accomplish (those things evident and those that are not so obvious). God Bless this staff.

Jane officially turned in her resignation, due to her relocation to Kansas City. We will miss her and Gary.

We have received about 20% return on the Partners in Prosperity Program pledges. These commitments are from congregants and members who pledge a level of contribution to the church. Hopefully, the program will grow to provide 30% to 40% of the operating funds of the church.

Town Hall Meeting notes

Here are my notes from the Town Hall Meeting at the Church on Wednesday night 12/06/06....and a few personal observations of the notes for your review and prayers.

Approximately 30 people attended the meeting. Each person was given 3 minutes to express feelings.

Lillian opened with a few guidelines for the individual observations such as:

Be compassionate; express feelings and issues that Jane's departure brings individually; be honest in observation and express individual needs. —>



Continued —>

Unity of Fayetteville will be involved in a Television program about youth education. The program is sponsored by the Interfaith Communications Group of Northwest Arkansas. Footage from one of the Y.O.U. rallies will be included.

Old Business:

The issue of what to do with the gift that the church received (amounting to about \$27,000) has been resolved.

Unanimously the board approved a plan to place an amount equal to two months operating budget (\$20,000) in a reserve fund. Additionally, a goal was established for building that fund to a 3 months reserve over a 12-month time frame (for 2007). The remaining \$7,000 will be held as a budget item for emergency capital expenditures necessary for the continued operation of the church (like audio visual equipment and air conditioning units for the sanctuary). We are blessed with these funds to meet our needs, current and future. Our intent is to be wise stewards of these resources.

Discussions and preparations are ongoing for the 2007 budget and for the Annual Meeting in February. Committees for those issues will meet separately.

Lilian Bern is pioneering an initiative to contact and have an exit interview with congregants who no longer attend our

Without identifying (on purpose) any particular individual's comments, here are a few of the comments that I captured on paper.

2 ½ months remain before Jane's departure...that seems like a lot of time, but it really is not.

Why have so many people left the congregation?

We will survive.

To Jane: Knowing your heart has been a privilege.

This is God's work, and I accept it.

The people in the church are what make up the church, and our past experience makes what is going to happen very clear.

The perfect minister will come along.

We have been in this place before. Life goes on. You have been a blessing to us.

God is good...ALL THE TIME. Please everyone support the board during this time.

We will be fine. People come here (to Unity Church) and grow.

You elevated our energy level...organized the Sunday discussions...children have grown and have come to thrive at this church...the acceptance of individuals as they are is the draw.

This is a unity group.

Thanks for bringing our Unity Church back to us.

Town Hall Meeting
Sunday,
January 28,
after pot luck.

The church accepts credit card payments. You may pay your tithe or for a bookstore purchase using a credit card voucher. Forms are on the table in the entry.