

South Church: Minutes of the Annual Meeting

February 10, 2011, 7:30 PM

Opening

The meeting was preceded by a hymn sing.

The Moderator called the 300th annual meeting to order and confirmed that a quorum was in attendance. Rev Zehring opened the meeting with a prayer.

The Moderator welcomed everyone, especially people attending for the first time, and recognized 50-year members Deborah Brent, Robert Ramsdell and Patricia Shaw.

Music Director Search

Laurie Sorota gave an update from the music-director search committee. The committee has been meeting weekly since October, and has set up procedures for seeking, receiving, and screening resumes and candidates. The candidate-review process includes speaking with the candidate, convening the choir to sing with the candidate, and moving forward from there if there is mutual interest.

To date, the committee members have received 30 resumes and are talking with 6 candidates. Laurie thanked the members of the search committee for their dedication to the process.

Board of World Service

Lisa Guy gave a brief overview of the missions and financial contributions that stem from South Church. She focused on the breadth of the work, targeted toward both large and small organizations, and both domestic and international causes.

Presentation to Sandy Meldrum

Laura Jordan paid tribute to Sandy Meldrum for her service to Bread and Roses, spanning 27 years. Laura said that Sandy started her service to Bread and Roses on the first day that South Church a benefactor and has coordinated all volunteers who work with B&R to serve meals. The volunteers have collected \$500 to give to B&R in Sandy's name. Sandy thanked the congregation and said that the effort is really a team effort - involving up to 100 people from the church over the years. Rachel Combs will take over the South Church Bread & Roses leadership now that Sandy is moving on.

Staff Appreciation

John Zehring thanked each staff member, adding personal commendations for each of his associates (Jonathan Drury, Terry Ebner, Sherry Tupper, Carol-Georgine West, Charles Leinbach, Linda Hacker, Diane Morris, Joanne Smith, and Dave Stanwood. Attendees gave a standing ovation to the church staff.

Church Painting Update

The painting fund-raising effort, chaired by Tom Guy and Susan Johnston, has brought in \$212,345 in pledges to date, with \$183,704 already in hand. Painting the exterior will require about \$235,000, with an additional \$17,000 desired for

improvements to the narthex. The weather has caused some problems with work progress, but the project is still expected to be complete by mid-to-late summer.

Trustees of the Trust Funds (TOTF)

Debbie Martin reported that the TOTF have selected a new investment manager and have moved the funds to lower-cost Vanguard funds. The TOTF is planning an open meeting in spring to educate the congregation about the structure and use of the funds and to describe their plans for managing the trusts.

Giving Committee

Continuing their focus on Faith-Based Giving , the committee has received \$608,000 (272 pledges) as of the close of the 2010-2011 campaign. In their presentation, Jane Ingram and Rachel Combs thanked the individuals who worked with the Giving Committee to bring in the pledges, as well as the witnessing stewards, and each member of the committee.

Budget

Ellen Arvidson thanked the Giving Committee and the Painting Campaign committee and commented that the church ended 2010 in a healthy state, with annual giving in coming in \$18,000 over plan. Of the \$18,000, \$16,000 was allocated to Missions and \$2600 to the Building Reserve. The General Fund ended the year with surplus of \$27,700, primarily due to lower-than-expected personnel costs. Payments have started against the construction loan, but the church still carries construction debt of \$700,000, including \$476,000 to the trust funds.

Ellen presented a set of slides (see Appendix) detailing the 2011 budget, balanced at \$676,600. The Trustees offered a resolution to accept the annual budget as presented, including a mechanism to allocate any shortfall or excess in annual giving proportionally to Missions and the Building Reserve. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Other Business

Char Lyons asked if it would be possible to allocate funds from the memorial funds to flowers for a designated individual, with the suggestion that the person requesting the allocation make a donation to the church in the name of the designated individual. The Trustees of the Trust Funds offered to consider the suggestion and report back to the congregation at the June meeting.

Closing

Graham Long offered a prayer, which was followed by a slide show covering many of the activities of the past year. Rev Zehring offered the benediction. The meeting closed at 9 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Zeigler, Clerk

Attachment: Appendix