

**Minutes of the Council, South Church in Andover  
January 28, 2008**

**Present:**

Bill Schroeder	Moderator
Lisa Stedman	Staff
Terry Ebner	Staff
Mike Hawkins	Staff
Morgan Kiker	Treasurer
Laura Rex	Church School Superintendent
Tom Larsen	Deacons
Lynne McDonald	Deacons
Lisa Guy	Trustees
Betsy Davis	Trustees
Susan Henke	Christian Education
Fran Fink	Stewardship
Jennifer Bouchard	Board of World Service
MaryKate Bronder	Board of Women's Ministries
Ron Dann	Music
Eric Stubenhaus	Nominating
Jane Ingram	Youth
Janice Holden	Fellowship
Steve Fink	Member at Large
Anne Clough	Clerk

**Devotions**

Jane Ingram led devotions. Reading from the poetry of Shel Silverstein, Jane chose appropriate selections to provide both wisdom and welcome levity for specific boards and committees.

**Approval and Review of Minutes**

The December 18, 2007 Council Meeting minutes were sent to members before the meeting for review and were approved with several name corrections by unanimous vote.

**Annual Meeting Presentations**

After a review of the items on the annual meeting agenda, the meeting moved on to review three presentations pertinent to the 2008 budget proposal – namely, 2007 Financial Highlights, 2008 Stewardship Campaign and the 2008 Budget Proposal. Presentation slides and a pledge summary were handed out to council members.

There was some discussion about how to use the 2008 Stewardship Campaign Pledge Summary sheet. During the informational meeting after church on Sunday, there was a request for the type of information on the summary. The analysis represented by the summary will help Stewardship follow up in the event of any future stewardship campaigns. It also helps the council know where we are with respect to the budget. A PowerPoint slide will be made and be available on the laptop which will be used for annual meeting presentation so that, if questions come up at the annual meeting, we will have it as a resource. The council will let Page Bouchard decide how much information from the sheet he will use at the meeting.

The purpose of the summary is to help us understand the overall picture, not to single out individuals or families. We need to acknowledge that we trust one another to do the best we can and to be respectful of circumstances in each family's life.

A question that will most likely come up at the annual meeting is: Why can't we just use the trust fund money, rather than borrowing from the trust funds. The answer is that, by the rules set up for the funds, the Trustees of the Trust Funds cannot give us the money but are able to lend it to us at a rate that is comparable to what they could earn on the open market. That rate is significantly lower than we could get by borrowing from a bank, for example. Distributions from all trust funds go to fund many church programs.

As part of the discussion on the budget, it was also pointed out that we have overspent our budget for 2007, largely because of increased fuel and facility costs, so that must be accounted for in the 2008 budget as well.

Jennifer Bouchard, Board of World Service, will provide a handout, which lists our complete mission directory and the South Church financial support given to each mission. She will also emphasize that South Church provides not only money but also considerable hands-on support to our missions. She will have a slide detailing financial outreach as a percentage of annual giving, showing a downward curve – 15-16% and 20% in the past down to 6% in next year's budget. The impact of the 2008 budget represents a 39% cut (\$46,000) in what we can give to our missions.

At annual meeting, we will look for a motion to pass the budget with the funds that we already have with the proviso that any extra pledges or funds that we receive over and above the budgeted funds will go directly to missions. It was pointed out that the budget process will not work out very well unless we have a path to doing something about the budget as presented, especially with respect to missions. After this is completed, we can then talk about how we can increase our giving so that we can increase our mission giving. It was pointed out that we need a target rather than just "give more."

Lisa Stedman stressed that we should struggle with the issues and not with each other. We will pass the budget with heavy hearts but with faith that our giving will be such that we will find a way to provide more funding to our missions.

The discussion at annual meeting may lead to two votes: (1) a motion to accept the budget as presented and (2) a second motion to carry on a supplemental campaign to increase our giving. We will have to see where the energy lies with respect to this second motion.

### **Search Committee Status**

There are a lot of good candidates for a pastoral search committee. It is hoped that we will have a committee by the next council meeting.

### **Phillip Newell Retreat**

Terry Ebner reported that there are a good number of signups for the retreat with half of the available spots already taken.

### **Staff, Board and Committee Reports**

Because of the lateness of the hour, Bill Schroeder asked if any reports covering topics not already discussed were particularly pressing for this meeting. Full reports were postponed to the next meeting. The meeting closed with a standing ovation for the work of Mike Hawkins for his exceptional work on the 2008 budget.

### **Closing**

Tom Larsen led the group in a closing prayer.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, February 25, 2008 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Anne Clough, Clerk