

**MINUTES FROM COMBINED
CHARGE CONFERENCE/CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 21, 2008**

CHARGE CONFERENCE:

Welcome - District Superintendent Geraldine McClellan opened the meeting today with a devotion.

Parker Lawrence, Chair

Report on the sale of the Parsonage. Previously, the committee met and reported to the Church regarding the sale of the parsonage. Committee initially recommended that the parsonage be sold for no less than \$425,000, outlined in the report. Church Council voted unanimously voted that the parsonage be sold for no less than \$425,000 and that the funds be held in an account to pay for future ministers' housing allowances and other allowable expenses per church discipline. At this point, the Charge Conference meeting is the next step in moving forward with the sale of the parsonage.

Discussion from those in attendance included considering that there may be interest in the property over and above the \$425,000. We are not locked into the \$425,000 per the District Superintendent, and earlier Council decisions.

Discussion as to the use of the money in terms of what the discipline allows us to do with the proceeds. Jim Bishop posed the question: if the money can be put into a fund towards the payment of the existing loan taken out for the Master's Plan. Geraldine read the restrictions that would allow for the use of the money towards an existing loan. She further noted that this would fall back on the Trustees, as the legal body charged with caretaking the church's property.

Motion to proceed with sale of the Parsonage made and seconded. Sale of the parsonage approved as submitted.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes - Approved as submitted and distributed.

Old Business

Disaster Relief Planning, - Sara Emmanuel reported on the proposed disaster relief survey being done as part of a district-wide effort. The survey will determine the needs of our church members and identify those who can help in case of a disaster. The survey is completed and has been distributed to members of the church council.

Approval of the survey moved and seconded as recommended and approved for distribution to the Church members.

Future Ministries, Update from Dr. Henderson

Written Report submitted. Dr. Henderson quoted from his report "The original report was

designed to lay out ideas and challenges we have the opportunity to address as we face what I believe can be an exciting future for our church and its ministry in downtown Gainesville and beyond.”

Three areas of concern have seen some progress: The first area of service that needs to be addressed is to the homebound who cannot regularly attend services. Rev. Carl Romey is spearheading this area. However, the clergy alone is not able to cover all of this; volunteers are crucial to this service.

The second area of concern is communication to our members. A group has recently come together to begin addressing this area. This group will hopefully meet prior to the May meeting.

The third area is ministering to those who come to the Church office looking for help. As well as the Helping Hand’s Clinic on Monday nights, we are now able to schedule arrangements for people to be seen by Randy on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Additionally, the Women’s Clinic is open every second and fourth Thursday evening.

The fourth area of concern is following up with the visitors who continue to attend our services each Sunday. The question is not if we follow-up but how can we do more to make the follow-up more personal, keeping in mind that most people who visit a church are looking for a sense of belonging. Newcomers need to understand what we have to offer and offer that rather than something else.

One new development is that the Christian Workers Chapel has been used for a formal service since the recent renovations were completed, showing the potential for further service. Additionally, the first large-scale wedding in the renovated sanctuary also demonstrated the potential for an important and strategic ministry without getting into the wedding production-line business. These services require more volunteers to come forward and serve as coordinators and sound system operators.

Committee Highlights

Finance Committee, Aubrey Lewis, Chair - Absent, no report.

Trustees Committee, Leon Couch, Chair - Dodie Andrews will carry out the details of selling the parsonage. No further information on the selling of the furniture at this time. Dodie will handle these details also and a report is forthcoming.

Staff Reports

Pre-School Director, Amy Watson: No report, one month left of the year. Registration is going very well, close to being fully booked. \$1,519 from Spring Arts bake sale.

Director of Music, Robert Jackson: Written report submitted. Faith We Sing Hymnals have been paid for and work has begun on the design, printing and placement of the Memorial plaques for designated hymnals.

Chancel Choir chairs have arrived with thanks to Margaret Steptoe, Margaret Couch and John Bevis.

Choral Library reorganization has begun to repair damage to many of the music file storage boxes.

Jubilate Singers continue to seek volunteers who are willing to help with arts and crafts and musical games on Wednesday afternoons.

Calendar of upcoming musical events provided.

Pastor of Children, Youth, and Christian Education - Nathan Carden: absent.

Pastor Henderson - Christian Education Committee continues to address the decline in Sunday school attendance and will meet again in early May to discuss the results of the SS survey. This was included in last Sunday's bulletin and will be in this upcoming Sunday's bulletin.

Assistant Pastor - Carl Romey: absent

Senior Pastor - Harold Henderson: see above.

Pastor Harold Henderson closed the meeting with a devotion.

NEXT MEETING MAY 27, 2008.