



North Haven Congregational Church

Board of Finance Minutes

Meeting of November 10, 2009

ATTENDING

Ray Geissler, Sally Pallatto, Adam Schweickert, Steve Peterson, John Tibor, Philip DiPeri, Scott Morrow.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM by Chairperson pro temp Steve Peterson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Sally, and second by Ray, the minutes of September 8th and October 6th were approved as corrected.

MINISTER'S REPORT

Stewardship Sunday: Scott suggested that congregants be asked to place their pledge cards in the regular offering and that the prayer of dedication would include both the regular offering and the pledges. The Board concurred with this proposal and asked Scott to announce this to the congregation earlier in the service.

Communication with staff about compensation: There is some ambiguity about how and when staff members are notified about changes in compensation. The preferred arrangement would have two steps:

- Staff members would be informed of the percentage recommendation contained in the budget that will be presented at the Annual Meeting.
- Following the Annual Meeting, staff members would receive a letter confirming that actual salary figure.

The Board felt that, in the case of lay staff members, these letters should come from the Chairperson of the Personnel Committee, and, in the case of the ministers, should come from the Chair of the Board

of Deacons, the Chair of Pastoral Relation Committee, or the Moderator.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The distributed report reflects disbursement activity through November 11th, but not monies received on Sunday, November 8th.

Using previous years as a guidepost, John is anticipating a shortfall in pledge income of ca. \$17K.

John also expects the compensation lines will show an unexpended balance of early \$6.5K.

Utilities and insurance will end the year very close to budget.

Overall, John expects the year to end very close to balance.

The Board received the Treasurer's report with appreciation.

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Philip called the Board's attention to the fact that currently the 10% allocation of Nextel funds to the Board of Christian Outreach is simply added to (commingled with) that Board's operating budget. This means that the BCO must spend the funds fully in a fiscal year. The result of this situation is, first, any unspent funds, including the Nextel funds, are carried forward as general unrestricted income. Second, it precludes reserving funds for a specific project in a subsequent fiscal year. Both of the outcomes seem to thwart the intention of the allocation.

As a remedy, Adam moved that John establish a non-budget restricted account to receive the Nextel funds allocated to the Board of Christian Outreach. Ray second, and the motion carried.

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OLD BUSINESS

Stewardship Sunday is November 15th. Scott will be the “Speaking from Faith” speaker.

After some discussion, the Board proposed that the follow-up plan:

- Begin immediately after Sunday, November 29th.
- The budget posters that Sally prepared would be re-posted in Carroll Hall.
- A letter with pledge cards and perhaps a pre-addressed envelope be mailed to all persons who had not returned pledge cards by November 29th. Steve will draft this letter for Betsey.

NEW BUSINESS

Special Projects. Three proposals were presented in draft or preliminary form.

- Philip presented a project entitled “Visitor Development Program” with a one-year budget of \$993.

- Scott briefly discussed a “Welcoming Project.”
- Steve reported that Betsey was working on a proposal to use a web camera to include the Sunday services on the website.

Because none of the proposals was complete, the Board decided to postpone a decision on them to the December 8th meeting.

Scott raised the need for a multi-year strategic plan for stewardship. Such a plan would project costs and non-pledge income so that we could set realistic stewardship goals for pledge and gift income. The Board agreed that this planning necessary particularly in light of the growing needs of our physical plant.

ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM. The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 8th, at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Peterson, Recorder