

**Channing Memorial Church
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, August 12, 2008**

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Next Board Meeting – Tuesday, September 9th
Sanctuary Rededication – Sunday, September 28th

Present: Chris Yalanis, Bill Hawkin, Kelly Bailey, Sarah Mermin, Bill Peresta, Beth Milham, Tom Beall, Kim Shute, Amy Freedman, Russ Milham, Chris Green, Halycon Westall, Don Mallinson.

Process Observer: Sarah Mermin

Approval of June & July Minutes

The June minutes were approved and the July minutes were approved with a few corrections that are reflected in the revised July minutes.

CURRENT BUSINESS

Aquidneck Island Energy Conference Update – the steering committee has been meeting weekly. Everything is a go for September 20th. Instead of charging a set fee, participants will be asked to make a \$10 donation and they will buy their lunch.

Rainbow Flag – There was no vote tonight, but lots of discussion regarding placing a flag or plaque outside the front of the church. Don asked why it had to be voted on and Chris said that a previous discussion last year prompted a great deal of discussion and that is why he brought the issue before the Board. Kim agreed with Don saying that it seems like the Property & Social Justice Committee should be empowered to make that decision. Russ disagreed saying that the Board should be involved in decisions that affect the front of the church and outward appearance. The issue will be revisited at the September meeting.

Canvass Update – Bill sent out reminders to those people who still have pledges outstanding for the 2007-2008 fiscal year. We are still \$16,000 less than expected. There is a single pledge of \$2,000 that is expected to come in soon, however. We are off to a good start this year, having received \$23,000 to date.

Facility Use Policy Update – Chris and Amy have had a discussion regarding members and non-members use of the church and buildings. Currently the charge is \$50/hour to use the facility. Amy stated that there are groups, for profit businesses, that

are in line with our mission that hold conferences or workshops, but that may not be able to afford the current rate. Kelly suggested a sliding scale of a per person rate and Beth proposed charging ½ the commercial rate. The Church policy is on the web site for review and the issue will be revisited at a future Board meeting.

BOARD RETREAT

Chris asked that the Board review the documents prior to the retreat. The retreat will be held at Susan VanDerhoof's home at 460 Bramans Lane. It will run from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and everyone is asked to bring a potluck lunch dish to share.

PROPERTY UPDATE

David Pedrick gave an update on the property plan and work. Those working on the Master Plan have accelerated their work and are now meeting weekly. In order for the committee to make some important decision and prioritize their work, David asked that the Board approve the committee's request to obtain bids for 1) site work – drainage issues and underground utilities from a civil engineer and 2) architectural estimate to formulate a plan for the undercroft of the church. An estimate for obtaining the site work bid would be \$5,000 and for the architectural bid would be about \$10,000.

There was a motion made and seconded that the Board authorize the Property Committee to obtain the bids necessary in order to make decisions about the future of the church.

Discussion: Russ was opposed saying that we don't have the money. Chris stated that there is money already available in the Capital Campaign fund. Kim asked whether this has been prioritized or do we need this information first in order to do that. David said this is important information that is needed.

The motion carried with Russ opposed.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

- Amy said that the draft calendar for the upcoming year is now available.
- Russ asked that everyone make an effort to use our tax exempt certificate. See him to get a copy.

Process Observations: Since the meeting went longer than scheduled, Sarah suggested that the agenda was a bit ambitious.