

CHANNING CHURCH

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 3, 2009

PRESENT: Russ Milham, Sarah Mermin, Chris Yalanis, Susan VanDerhoof, Jake Smith, Coles Mallory, Chris Laudon, Jim Freess, David Pedrick

STAFF: Halcyon Westall, Rev. Amy Freedman

PROCESS OBSERVER: David

The meeting began with a moment of silence and prayer for Marcia Francis

MINUTES: The minutes of the November meeting were approved with minor changes.

PROPERTY

. The congregation approved the driveway paving and putting in the loop driveway in front of Channing House. The tree that needed to be taken down for the work on the driveway to begin is down. The large stained glass window has been removed and is being shipped to Iowa. It will be back in the spring. During the work on the driveway a gas line will be installed into Channing House for future use if needed and a dry well will be put in at the end of the driveway for drainage.

We have a tenant on the 2nd Floor of Channing House. The lease has been signed. Gnazzo Co. has left the sight.

Chris has been chasing Chime Master about the bells. She has today received a shipping notification that the bells will be on the way on December 8th from Rotterdam. There was discussion that we may be rushing the celebration on January 17th. Sarah suggested we push the celebration off to alleviate stress. It was noted that it is our 175th anniversary in 2010 which might be good to tie into the bell celebration. There was generally agreement that putting off the celebration until the spring would be a good idea.

Chris Y. asked what the status of the design of the signs is? Chris L. said they have to decide on what the text should be.

The Property Committee will begin working on the Master Plan again in January.

Chris Y. thanked all the members of the Property Committee for their continued work.

TREASURER - Russ

Russ distributed a profit and loss statement and asked if there were questions. Chris Y. asked if there was a way to see how we are as compared to the same time last year. Russ said it is difficult because he closed the books and opened new ones at the start of this fiscal year.

The money coming in is OK. We are \$2800 short on Channing House apartment, but there was a shortage budgeted for that of just over \$4,000. We could be \$4,000 or \$5,000 down in wedding revenue. We have \$71,000 in pledges so far. Sarah asked if there were other fundraising events planned. Amy said there have been fundraising breakfasts, but they have not happened.

CANVASS – Jim

The Canvass Committee will start meeting on January 10th with meetings every 2 weeks. The leadership event will be Feb. 28th. Chris Y. said he would host the leadership event again this year. Canvass kick off party will be March 6th and canvass Sunday will be March 7th. April 11th will be the official close of the canvass. Jim asked if there is a budget for the canvass? Russ said \$400.

There was discussion about what the canvass goal would be and when would that be set. Sarah asked how committees should prepare their budgets. Amy suggested we could ask that people give as much as they can rather than state a goal. There was a difference of opinion as to how committees should develop their budgets. Ask for the world or go by what we can reasonably raise.

GOVERNANCE

After two congregational information sessions in October, Sue presented the governance model to the board again for further discussion. While the first session was generally positive toward the model, the second favored several different ways the board should be configured, ranging from a board of just officers to keeping our current structure. During the board discussion, it was evident that our current by-laws need to be updated. Sue recommended that no matter what is finally decided about the board structure, that there should be the development of a policy handbook to help guide the board, committees and congregation in decision making.

David noted that according to the current by-laws, the Trustee's position is one of liason to the committees. He suggested keeping the current structure, but redefining and clarifying it in the by-laws. Russ said that the current function of the Trustees is suppose to be as a liason for the congregation not the committees. There was general agreement that no matter what the current role of the Trustee is suppose to be, it isn't functioning as intended.

Sarah said we should determine what the role of the board is –is it dealing with day to day decisions. How much of the information that we get do we need to get. Amy feels that there is not a coordination takes place that should be taking place. She asked that if we reject this model then we should resurrect the Program Council.

After much lively discussion, the topic was tabled until the next Board meeting in January.

OTHER BUSINESS – Chris Y.

Chris said that one of the most important committees for revenue is Channing's Grant Writing Committee. Dennis Greene is stepping aside and we need new people to step in. We can't let this slide. Please give thought to who you would recommend to be working on the grant writing. Chris L. pointed out that the property is not the only thing to get grants for—there are grants for RE and ministry as well.

Jake said again that the bell celebration needs people to step up and work on and organize it.

PROCESS OBSERVER – meeting went long in some spots.