

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH

Board Minutes

March 4, 2010

Present: Chris Laudon, Sally Hanchett, Sarah Mermin, Coles Mallory, Jake Smith, Jim Freess, Russ Milham, Susan VanDerhoof, Beth Milham, Bob Thorson

STAFF: Amy Freedman

PROCESS OBSERVER: Sally Hanchett

MINUTES: February minutes were approved. Russ moved, Sarah seconded.

GREEN CONGREGATION – Beth

Beth was present to answer questions about the action plan. It does require a congregational vote. She is pleased that so many parts have been incorporated into the workings of the congregation. Russ motioned that the board put the motion online for the congregation and for it to be put in the warrant for the annual meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim thanked Beth and others who have done so much work on this.

PROPERTY – Chris L.

A couple of big concerns, one is the shape of the Parish House and the second is the stained glass window. There is negation going on about the glazing. Chris needs to work with Russ to get final report on the steeple. Chris asked if she could apply for the Doris Duke Award. Russ asked if there was a cost. Chris said no. Bob asked if there was a down side. Everyone agreed Chris should apply for the award. Things are winding up. The new gas line will put into Channing House in about a month.

The plaque competition – Chris has sent an outline to Holly Grosvenor.

MINISTER’S REPORT

Amy passed out a letter from Michele Dubuc requesting an increase in her hours for next year. No action was taken because the board is waiting for the end of the canvass on April 3rd. We would have to consider this request at the May Board meeting. The annual meeting is May 19th. It was generally agreed that Michele is a great asset to the church, but Coles cautioned that we will have a number of requests and it will depend on the money available. Sarah asked when we might discuss what our priorities are. She was advocating for a cost of living and other things for RE. Coles said when the pledge drive is over.

The social action workshop was very successful with over 50 people attending. Amy will be on vacation March 12th thru the 22nd.

Amy brought up the issue that we are suppose to be in touch with the district about the interim minister and is unsure what the status is of that.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Russ

Russ has been looking at the money that has come in for the steeple and the 10th bell. He has sent the final payment to Gnazzo. He is waiting for a release from Chime Masters. He sent them \$56,000 but is holding \$40,000 until we receive the release. As of today we have in hand in cash \$9,518.88 and expecting \$200 from the city of Newport. He needs to pay out \$42,000 plus an interest payment on the bridge loan. Russ made a motion that we as a board declare that the steeple/bell portion of the project is done and we have accepted the steeple and bells. He will pay Chime Masters once he receives the release. Then we can go to Save America's Treasures and tell them it done and we can get the final \$88,000. Coles said it is not a cash flow problem since we can borrow \$100,000 from Bank Newport and then pay it back. Jake seconded. Coles asked Chris if the Property Committee considers the project complete and Chris L. said yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Chris has received emails to voice our opinion that Save America's Treasures should be saved in the O'Bama budget. Coles said he is not in favor of supporting faith based projects. Chris and Russ said we received it because of the historical significance, not anything relating to religion. Bob said that churches are imbedded in the history of US government so he differs from Coles.

BELLS SPEAKER & MICROPHONE – Russ

Russ is advocating for sound in the Sanctuary so the bells can be heard inside the church. The cost for the material is \$740 and \$45/hour in labor to run the line. Russ would like to move that we spend the money out of the Friends of the Sanctuary account not to exceed \$1,000 to put sound to the bells in the Sanctuary. Coles is not in favor of this because he wants to not expand the scope of the project. Historic preservation was to have the bells heard outside the church. Sue agreed with Coles regarding hearing the bells inside. Chris said that the bells don't need to be played after the service, but it would give us the option of having a gifted musician come and hear the bells played inside. Sarah said that is not necessarily something we need to do right now. A thousand dollars here and there adds up.

Russ moved that we install a sound system from the bells to the Sanctuary if we can find the money. Jake seconded. Five in favor, 3 against and 1 abstention. Motion carried.

Jake has been asked by people to see the bells and we should determine an access policy. Chris Ariel is the head of the bells and they are setting guidelines for people to go up to see them.

CANVASS UPDATE – Jim

The canvass is on schedule. We have set all benchmarks most importantly getting the brochure out on time. We have 23 canvassers that have been trained. The leadership social went well. The assignments have been done. They are waiting until after the

kickoff event. Sarah asked how many pledge units there are. Jim thinks that there are about 180.

BELL/STEEPLE CELEBRATION –

Sue asked for a total budget of \$1500 for cake and punch. Jake moved that we authorize \$1500 for the bell celebration, Sarah seconded. The motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS – Russ

Russ would like to revive a program council. Tell the Nominating Committee that we want the program chair position filled with limited responsibilities. No formal vote was taken, but the board supported the idea.

The Committee on Ministry asked that committees refer to the Strategic Plan to keep up on the items that need to be done.

EVALUATION OF MEETING: Chris L.

Lovely meeting, on time everyone respectful.