

FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

CONGREGATIONAL FORUM

November 6, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Melinda Carlson at 11:50 AM.

Devotions: Judy Deitch read an excerpt from the Autumn portion of *Let Your Life Speak*, and attendees sang the hymn *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*.

Presentation of Agenda: With the addition of “Voting For Slate of Team Memers” before Team Reports, Barbara Rollman moved and Anita Jacobs seconded to approve the agenda. *Motion passed.*

Approval of Minutes from April 10, 2016 meeting: Larry Gibble moved to approve the minutes. Brittney Beckwith seconded. *Motion passed.*

Affirmation of Slate: Melinda Carlson commented that not all positions are filled on the ballot. When asked if anyone would volunteer to help, John Anderson agreed to place his name on the Financial Resources Team and Pat Trimmer agreed to place her name on the Worship Team. Under District Conference, Brad Nicholas should be listed as a one year term. Members were then asked to vote yes or no for the slate of candidates with additions/changes. Ballots were collected and counted.

Team Reports

Leadership: Judy Deitch asked Tom McCracken to report on the progress of the Search Committee. The committee met last Sunday to begin the process of finding a new pastor. Tom, Chair of the committee, recognized the other members including Greg Bachman, Tim Beckwith, Carol Gordon, Deb Klinedinst, Emma Stoolmaker and Barb Wueschinski. He thanked Larry Gibble for providing history and information. Tom indicated that the goal is to take time to find the right person. He asked for prayers during this time and to be understanding that much of the process is confidential, and the committee will share as much as possible.

Arlene Martin asked how the process works with the District. Tom stated that the church will submit a profile, the district will review and advertise for candidates to submit resumes to the district. The district will then send profiles of candidates to the committee for review. They will select persons to meet with the congregation for further consideration.

Judy also stated that the search for an Interim Pastor has begun. District Executive Bill Waugh will be attending the Leadership Team meeting on Tuesday night with a possible candidate.

Pastor: Pastor Don's report is included in the packet. Pastor Don will be attending his uncle's funeral tonight and plans to be back in York tomorrow.

Youth Ministry: Judy Deitch asked Garrett about the lock-in. Garrett stated that the event will be held in the gym on December 31 and January 1. The youth have been challenged to have 50 in attendance.

Leonard Stoner asked if the youth will be attending work camps. Garrett said there are two camps being reviewed.

Melinda Carlson asked if they are still holding monthly services. Garrett said there have been conflicts with youth schedules, but they will resume soon. Garrett is reaching out to youth not attending through media, personal invitations, attending events, meeting for coffee and texting individual youth. Melinda stated that it was great to see the youth in the service today.

Brian LeGrand asked about Garrett's six month review. Judy Deitch explained that as of the last Forum, the first review had not taken place. Since then, Garrett had his first six month review and recently Judy and Pastor Don completed his second review. Details will be shared at the Leadership Team meeting.

Child Development Center: Ken Gordon reminded members that next Sunday will be an Open House for the CDC and Infant Center both before and after church. Teachers have been invited to attend. The goal of the Team is to integrate the CDC and the church in more ways in the future.

Leonard Stoner asked about enrollment. Ken stated that we currently have about 75 children with 6 or 7 more expected soon. There is room to grow.

Education: Nancy Gipe reported that *Trick or Trunk* was a huge success with at least 250 people attending. Deb Klinedinst thanked Jay Crist for bringing his 1951 Nash. Terry Wueschinski added that church brochures were distributed at this and other events, but he is not sure how effective they are.

Facility: No additions to report. Melinda Carlson clarified with Roy Rollman that custodian Scott Shorts is currently working 30 hours for the church and none for the CDC.

Fellowship: Tim Beckwith reminded members that Game Night is next Saturday at 6:30.

Hospitality: Terry Wueschinski stated that several members have inquired about the narthex renovation project, but the committee is putting that on hold for now.

Melinda Carlson asked Terry if the committee could review the new procedure of not having greeters at the side door and to keep everyone informed. Terry agreed.

Spiritual Enrichment: No additions to report.

Witness: Frank Leaman corrected the item in the report on Cash for Causes. Cards are not purchased to obtain discounts, but rather are sold at face value.

Worship: No additions to report.

Deacons: No additions to report.

Motion was made by Deb Klinedinst and seconded by Richard Brown to approve the reports as submitted. *Motion passed.*

Treasurers Report: Sheryl Leaman presented the Balance Sheet and Budget reports for the period March 15 through September 30. During this time, giving was steady and a little ahead of anticipated figures. Expenses were also below budget, so we are on target to finish the year without a deficit. A more detailed list of designated funds was also included in the report. Estates and Bequests are managed as designated funds. (Report attached)

Financial Plan 2017: Sheryl presented the 2017 budget as developed by the Leadership Team and Financial Resources Team. This budget varies only slightly from the current 2016 budget with expenses expected to be approximately \$1300 over income.

The Christ Disciples Assembly congregation renting our chapel is currently fundraising to purchase their own church downtown. At some point, we anticipate that they will be leaving, but they have not yet given any notice. At that time, we will lose the \$420/month income, so we may need to find a different way to utilize or rent the chapel.

Sheryl moved to approve the Treasurers Reports and 2017 budget as presented. Richard Brown seconded. *Motion passed.* (Reports and Plan attached)

Unfinished Business – Management of Church Funds: At the last Forum meeting, Jay Crist asked if plans were in place to manage our assets in light of declining membership and future needs. The Leadership Team asked the Financial Resources Team to address this question. At the last Financial Resources Team where Jay and Judy Deitch were in attendance, the team members approved several policy changes or additions to better address these needs. They will be presented to the Leadership Team next week for approval.

New Business: None

Open Discussion: Deb Klinedinst thanked Brian and Jackie LeGrand for taking charge of the *Trick or Trunk* event.

Judy Deitch asked members to think about what we want to see for First Church in the future and send her those ideas/thoughts.

Melinda announced that the Slate of Team Members voted on today was approved. (Slate attached)

Barbara Rollman asked the question, “If we don’t have a moderator, will the District help to find one?” Melinda said yes, but we should be able to find someone within the church. She stated that the moderator chairs two meetings a year, is not required to attend the Leadership Team meetings but may go if he/she desires and this is a two year term. Leonard Stoner will consider the position, but would have to resign from the Worship Team.

Melinda closed the meeting at 1:04 PM with a benediction.