

Minutes of the Meeting of the First Churches  
Board of Trustees  
February 11, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 with Marcia Kennick, Gregory Wilson, Margie Riddle and Todd Weir in attendance.

**Financial Report**

The financial report indicates that pledges are a bit ahead for First Church, the Baptist Church and loose offering. The loose offering being up can reflect the participation of new people through Common Ground. Various expenses tend to balance out over the year. We expect to manage to stay within budget for the year with an anticipated shortfall of \$57,036 for the year.

Also the refinancing of the loan will help the budget for the year.

**Possible Common Ground Grant**

The Renewing Church Matching Funds Proposal grant that is being applied for from the UCC would total \$60,000 over five years in 18 month segments. The grant is being applied from First Churches to support growth through the addition of the Common Ground second service. The first 18month grant is for \$30,000 with \$10,000 with no strings attached and an additional \$20,000 to be awarded after the 18 months so long as \$10,000 in new money is raised.

The second 18month period would award an additional \$10,000 with no strings attached with a 1-1 match for an additional \$10,000 so long as \$5,000 is "internal tithes, offering, pledges, or the demonstration of long-term venture and virtue capitalist relationships and/or income streams for non-traditional settings."

The third 18 month segments is an up to \$10,000 matching grant if the congregation raised an additional \$10,000 in 18 months.

**Organ Fund Committee** has met with Peg Whitham, Marcia Kennick, Dana Pasquale and Dick Purrington as members. The fund already includes \$2,690 in dedicated funds. The committee request Trustees authorize \$250 for supplies. The motion was made and passed to that effect. They are thinking about creating a brochure and reaching out to the Congregation for help. The total needed for the fund is \$32,000-\$36,000. It is expected that the work will be completed by the end of March.

Finance Committee has suggested that the Organ Fund be a non-budgeted fund the balance of which should be listed at the bottom of every financial report, and Trustees agreed.

**Iglesia Bautista** rents space from First Churches on Tuesdays, and they are very reliable renters. They would like to use the space in the recreation room on

Tuesdays, and we agreed to offer that space to them in exchange for some yard work and maintenance work. There are concerns about electricity in the chapel with the equipment they are currently using. The chapel currently has only two-prong outlets. A trustee needs to pursue this issue. Gregg will ask Bill McGhee to pursue three estimates for assessing the safety of the electricity and upgrading the electrical.

The leaders of Iglesia Bautista also would like to purchase an air conditioner for summer use.

### **Historic Commission Report on our Request to Sell the Tiffany Window**

Mary Jane in Senator Rosenberg's office said to wait until the end of February to ask again.

### **Birthday Party Request**

Dana has a request for her son's 40th birthday party in Lyman Hall. She wanted to serve alcohol. It was moved, seconded, and approved that Trustees approved this specific request because Dana is a member of First Churches.

### **Clarification of Property Lines for First Churches**

We agreed to review the information from Mikal Weiss and the Police Chief over the next month. At our next meeting we will plan a meeting with the Mayor to address acknowledge that our lawyer agrees with the Chief about where the property lines are. At that meeting we would address concerns about caring for the planter; snow removal; and the loss of the three parking spots.

### **Stewardship Campaign and Budget Committee**

These committees need to be formed now to begin meeting in March.

We have agreed to ask several people for each committee and report back to each other. A draft budget will be completed by mid-April. The asking budget should be ready to go before the stewardship campaign starts around April 20.

### **Painting**

The total cost of the job would have been \$3,500. We have agreed to pay \$1,365 until they finish the job according to the specifications.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11 at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margie Riddle