

Messiah Annual Congregation Meeting - January 18, 2011

Messiah Annual Congregation Meeting on January 18th, 2011 opened at 7:10pm with a hymn, a prayer and another hymn. Pastor Robert Hoey read from Philippians chapter 2 – *Unity through Humility*.

Tom Kuhr, spoke for the Trustees. As for the year ahead, the trustees are pleased with the new budget which is providing funds for:

Stained Glass

Courtyard/Sidewalks (to be done at the same time)

Kitchen Windows (1st priority as is the easiest to do and will help cut heating bill)

Parsonage Restoration (2nd priority – Workday planned for Feb. 19th)

2010 on the other hand was a disappointing year: Trustees underwent a re-organization, The parsonage required attention, there was flooding in a bathroom, and a break in which required door repairs. Drains were unplugged which helped w/ courtyard problems. Handicap signs were put up for designated parking, and the organ needed an isolation amplifier.

Alan Hutchenreuther, filling in for Treasurer, Tony Gonzalez went over the Budget for 2010. Finished year \$2000 over budget. The only months to make the budget were, May, August, October, November, and December. There was an office computer crash in July and a virus in August. Alan proceeded to go over budget, line by line. There was a question about returned checks which was further explained.

At this point, Gerry Scott announced that Gerard's son was robbed and beat up and in the hospital. The meeting stopped and prayed for his well being. (Returning to financial matters didn't seem quite as important after this)...

However,

Office supplies over budget due to computer purchase. Line 89 – Misc. for \$650 would have been included in snow removal if it was caught in time. Transfers to Capital Projects is under Trustees care. Line 132 went to Claudine Mamo/Haiti trip. Local Ministries (line 134) slightly under budget as well as local relief (line 154). Pastoral Team (line 158) 200 under budget.

MOTION TO ACCEPT 2010 NUMBERS AS READ - 2nd – PASSED.

Candidates for two open Council positions introduced: Michael Carlson, Matt Fleming, Darren Garey, Tom Leger, Steve Schow, Gerry Scott.

Tom Leger suggested for future elections, the candidates would submit a page explaining what they believe and/or represent.

Ballots collected and taken into office to be tallied. (Tom Leger and Steve Schow are the two new council members and Matt Fleming is the alternate).

The meeting continued with Living Arts issue. Mike Rogers explained council views Living Arts as not being a ministry and funds were suspended and they are now charged rent. As Living Arts would like to remain in the church building through June 2012, the congregation needs to approve. Christine Blunden thanked the congregation for allowing her to be here for 12 years. She explained Southwest Dance as a program of Living Arts. She noted they use the building on Mondays through Thursdays generally between 4:30 – 8pm. The baby nursery is used as an office and the pantry is used also. Cleaning is shared between them and CMAD. She explained the benefits to the kids who participate as stated in brochures which she offered for interested parties. S.W. Dance has 83 students, 20 of whom are from the church. Majority of the students are from the neighborhood. Question: Do you have insurance? Answer: Yes. As far as cleaning in the church goes, most of it is covered by CMAD and L.A.'s Q: What is rental amount? A: \$555 per month. Living Arts uses volunteers for guards and cleaning. Alycia Meriweather noted parent volunteers will receive tuition discounts. Others expressed approval of having our building being used as much as possible.. It was also noted that certain music should not be played in our church as it didn't seem appropriate. As a community organization, it was also noted that some see it as a ministry as Messiah Church is known to many because of it's dance classes. It was also noted that overall costs to the congregation ran close to 10,000 per year. Further questions regarding background checks for teachers, tuition costs etc. were asked and answered. Q: Has building use been denied because of Living Arts use? A: Every now and then an odd request has been denied however an occupied building is a good thing. Q: Is there any overlap between CMAD and L.A.'s? A: No.

Judy Ostroski stated that she used to think it was a ministry but is bothered by some world themes and torn between music that the teachers pick. Christine Blunden said they never claimed to be a ministry but the founders were mostly Christian and felt led to do this. She also stated they go over their music and feel the majority of it is fine. Alycia Meriweather asked why isn't there Spanish Bible Study or other ways to offer ministry to the folks who are in the building because of the dance classes.

MOTION TO VOTE BY WRITTEN BALLOT – 2nd - PASSED

MOTION TO ALLOW LIVING ARTS TO STAY TILL JUNE OF 2012 – 2nd – PASSED.

MOTION TO MONITOR ACTIVITIES IN BUILDING DURING DANCE CLASSES -2nd - PASSED.

2011 Future Budget: Finance Committee sent out questionnaire to all supported ministries in order to help in deciding future support levels. Line by line items discussed were Line 3, Income target raised to 293,000. Line 13, Pastor's Salaried restored to 2009 level. Line 14, Health Insurance adjusted to match 2010 actual amount. Line 22 reduced as Living Arts supplies own guards and no longer paying an assistant caretaker stipend. Line 31, Assistants amount reduced. Line 36, utilities. Office supplies, line 44 increased for anticipated new copier purchase. It was noted that, although similar, copier supplies are separate from computer supplies. Line 63 Christian Education. Line 76 reduced to 3 year

average based on actual expense. Line 91, 20,500 transfer to Capital Projects from General Fund pending congregation approval if budget met - 18,500 if we meet minimum.

Peggy Sullivan questioned income projections as listed on Line 3 of proposed 2011 budget. She offered the proposal to protect the financial operations of Messiah Church as listed below (also included as attachment 1).

Proposal to protect the financial operations of Messiah Church.

I submitted this proposal in late December, 2010. It was approved by Council, communicated to Building Trustees, and used (in part) to build the 2011 budget. I submit this to the Congregation for approval - as the accepted method when building future budgets. It has many advantages:

The Building Trustees:

Will have the autonomy needed to plan and execute its projects.

Will know in advance, exactly how much money will be available for the coming year.

Will have access to funds to pay for projects beginning immediately (in the budget year.)

The Council:

Will retain - and be able to fulfill its responsibilities of fiscal oversight.

The Church:

Will not find itself committed to Capital Projects that it ultimately cannot afford.

Procedure beginning December 31, 2010:

1) Throughout the year, each month the Treasurer will set aside funds in the Capital Projects Account, using the formula of an agreed upon percentage (currently 30.1 %) of income collected over the monthly operating expense budget. These

funds will NOT be available for the current year's expenditures, but will accumulate in the CP account, and will become the basis of the following year's Capital Projects budget.

2) At the end of the year, after all income/receipts have been allocated and all operating expenses paid, the Treasurer will review the balance in the General Fund Account. To the extent that the amount exceeds 2 1/2 times the next year's proposed monthly operating expense budget, the surplus will be allocated for (a) special one-time expenditures, or, (b) Capital Projects for the coming year. (Specific allocation between one-time expenditures or CP will be determined by Council and approved by the Congregation along with the annual budget.)

THIS MOTION WAS APPROVED BY THE CONGREGATION.

Further discussion ensued as to what the budgeted income projections should be for 2011.

Peggy Sullivan submitted a six year history (see attachment 2) of budget vs. actual receipts and stated there is no reasonable justification for setting receipts at \$293,000 for 2011.

Motion (see attachment 2) made to propose that Messiah's budgeted receipts be reduced to the level of expenditures for 2011, as follows:

Operating Expenses		
:	\$220,095	
Transfers to Capital Projects:		18,500
Transfers to Benevolence		
:	33,987	
Proposed Receipts 2011:		\$ 272,582

MOTION WAS NOT APPROVED BY THE CONGREGATION.

As above motion did not pass Peggy submitted a final motion as stated below and also included in attachment 2:

In the event that the Congregation chooses instead to retain this Inflated Receipts level of \$293,000 within the Proposed Budget, I submit the following as a substitute motion.

(2) At Least Let's Be Honest. If the Congregation opts to retain this Inflated Budgeted Receipts number of \$293,000, then I propose that the budget be revised to accurately reflect the transfers to CPs that would occur under the \$293,000 Receipts scenario proposed in the 2011 budget: amounting to a projected \$21,950, with the resulting GF Final Balance of \$45,017.

It was also added that Peggy would work with the Financial Officers to revise budget to accurately reflect best business practices.

THIS MOTION WAS APPROVED BY THE CONGREGATION.

FINAL MOTION TO ACCEPT BUDGET WAS SECONDED AND PASSED.

The Doxology was sung and as the meeting was breaking up, Grace Bentley stood up and announced that her son Henry's mother-in-law was in the hospital dying at this very moment. Many members gathered around her to pray.

...My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer... (Mk 11:17)