

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 3, 2009

At 11:30 am, Church Administrator David Anderson welcomed everyone and introduced the opening hymn, *Siyahamba* (We are Marching in the Light of God).

Transitional Pastor Jim White gave the opening prayer, recognizing God's presence and inspiration, and giving gratitude for thriving and opportunities. We grieve for those we have lost in the past year. We pray for wisdom for our political leaders. We look to this moment to collect our thoughts and plan for the coming year, and ask blessings for everyone at the meeting.

Children's Business Meeting (John Lewis)

Moderator John Lewis called the first annual Children's Business meeting, open to everyone under age 20. John explained how we make decisions by voting within a loving and caring community. Catherine asked the children which part of the service they enjoy the most: singing, praying, or listening to a story. Results: Prayer: 1; Song: 4.

John adjourned the children's meeting. We sent the children out with the music for *Siyahamba*.

John Lewis declared a quorum at 11:40 am.

Motion: Adoption of the minutes for the past three congregational meetings:

- 2008 Annual Meeting of April 27, 2008
- Special Congregational Meeting of November 30, 2008
- 2009 Financial meeting of February 22, 2009

M/S Fran Lewis / Tim Croll.

The motion passed.

Report on the 2008/2009 UCUCS year (John Lewis)

Some highlights of the past year:

- John reminded us of the Vision statement we have been living into this past year: "Imagine love and justice. Jesus did, we do. Come join us."
- We have promoted love and justice beyond our church walls by inviting the Nickelsville encampment to our parking lot for three months.
- We proclaimed our support for the Campaign against Torture.
- We inaugurated our CourageFest discussion and call to action.
- We joined with neighbor churches in the University District Ecumenical Campus Coalition.
- We created a Parish Relations Committee.
- We created a committee to support families in community
- We support study for our ministers
- We said goodbye to the Mackenzies.
- We brought Marcus Borg to lead a weekend of lectures.
- We have a new organist.

- Jim White has worked with us as the transitional minister.
- Our stewardship campaign focused on the need to support the church formally in uncertain times. Thank you to Tim Croll for his hard work.

John thanked everyone who supports our church with time and energy. He recognized all who served the church in an official capacity during the past year.

John thanked Immediate Past Moderator Marty Curry for the many ways she has helped during the past year. John also thanked Assistant Moderator Kathy Kripps for her hard work.

Nominations (Sue Landeen)

Motion: Approve the names submitted for Officers, Church Council Ministry Representatives, and Boards.

M/S Sue Landeen / Kathy Kripps

Nominated Officers:

Moderator: Kathy Kripps

Assistant Moderator: Christian Halstead

Immediate Past Moderator: John Lewis

Secretary: Elaine Mathies

Treasurer: Tim Croll

Changes to the published list:

Mission: remove Mike Herbert

At-Large Ministry representative: add Jan von Lehe

Social Action: add Loyce On'gudi

Facilities and Equipment: add Dennis Hannan, Don Mallett

Stewardship and Finance: add Nancy Fox

The motion passed unanimously. We welcome the new Officers and Board members.

Sue Landeen told us that membership on the Boards continues to be open. Let Sue know if you want to serve.

Peter Ilgenfritz asked for suggestions to help shape the summer preaching series. What are you wondering about? What questions do you have about scripture? What hymns do you want to hear? Would you like to take part in a dialogue sermon? Let Peter know your thoughts within the coming week.

Peter led the installation of Officers and Board Members. He reminded us that we gather in deep trust. Between congregational meetings we entrust the holding of this community to our group of leaders.

Vision Statement Update (Catherine Foote and Kathy Kripps)

Catherine introduced our Vision Statement: "Imagine Love and Justice. Jesus did, we do. Come Join Us."

We have been living with this statement for a year and will continue to live into this statement as we explore how it helps shape our sense of call. We will continue to work with this Vision Statement.

We want a quick way to summarize what we are as church. We are about God's love and our love for one another. We can't talk about love without talking about justice. We stand with those on the margins for redistributive justice. We must continue to let the spirit of God breathe through us. Jesus asked us to imagine a different way to being in world. Because Jesus did, we do. We keep the circle expanding while living in the tradition of Jesus. We will continue to live with this vision statement for the coming year.

Minister Search Process Update (George Burns)

Search Committee Chair George Burns announced that we are close to having a new minister. George expressed his appreciation for the phenomenal group of people who have dedicated themselves to weekly meetings since last fall.

We are moving into the final stages. We are doing background checks on the top candidates. Over the next few weeks we will have in-person interviews with top candidates and could make a call in June. However, the new minister might not start until the fall.

George gave a brief review of the search process, which began by building a profile of the congregation. This was complete by the end of 2008. Then we posted our position on the national website for our denomination. We had to scale back on the salary offer because of challenges with the economy. We received about 60 minister profiles, including twelve very strong candidates.

Kathy Kripps thanked everyone on the Search Committee for all of their work.

University District Ecumenical Campus Coalition Update (Marty Curry)

Kathy explained that we have been in dialogue with the university District Ecumenical Campus Coalition (UDECC). Two years ago we donated some money to support UDECC's mission. Last fall we formally joined UDECC. Marty Curry is our representative. Since we joined, UDECC has asked us to consider providing Lot C for the use of UDECC.

Marty explained that UDECC has been considering twelve sites in the University District for their Ecumenical Campus (one location where many different churches can meet, and also coordinate social action work). UDECC considered the block that includes the Methodist church, but the Post Office is unwilling to move. UDECC also considered the University Christian site and the Safeway lot. UDECC is ready to do a feasibility study and needs a viable site.

Our parking lot C is a large site and has the advantage of being next to our church. We are a healthy church and UDECC would like to partner with us.

Ten years ago, prior to fixing up our own church building, our "Crossroads" Task Force considered possible long-term plans for the Lot C space. Many possibilities discussed by Crossroads -- ecumenical space, space for social service -- are part of UDECC. One difference is that UDECC needs separate worship spaces.

We face the issue of whether we should approve our site for the feasibility study. We would be very involved in the study. We would need to consider if we wanted improvements our own building. Our parking would be intact. At the end of the feasibility study, every church would have to vote on whether or not to join in.

We need to consider how this would affect us. We will have a forum on June 7. UDECC has asked for our decision by mid-June.

Q. Why are the UDECC churches using an existing building?

A. Mostly seismic issues. Renovating issues are complicated.

Q. What about sustainability and green issues?

A. UDECC is using Olson Sundberg architect and are concerned with green issues.

Q. What were the goals for Crossroads?

A. We wanted a heart for the church that would reach out to the community. We had ecumenical goals.

Q. Feasibility studies take a long time. Expenses go up. Shouldn't we move this forward as quickly as possible?

A. We think that having a forum on June 7 is appropriate.

Greg Turner pointed out that the University District Ecumenical Parish work will continue and is separate from UDECC.

Kathy Kripps confirmed that the Council will be discussing UDECC issues in its upcoming meetings, and encouraged attendance at the June 7 forum.

Other Business

Kathy thanked the congregation for the opportunity to serve as Moderator. She looks forward to the challenge and opportunities of the coming year.

Kathy explained that we are trying to have active ministry reps and will look to amending bylaws as appropriate. She urged members to be active in the UDECC decision. If we approve the feasibility study we will create a task force to support the on-going work.

Kathy thanked John Lewis for all he has done during the past year. He has brought an incredible amount of energy to everything he has done, including work with the encampment and the Search Committee.

David Anderson thanked Marty Curry for her very active work as Immediate Past Moderator.

David also announced that next year's annual report will contain the notes for the 2008 congregational meeting on the Campaign Against Torture.

Music director Heidi Blythe played the closing hymn, "This Little Light of Mine".

Catherine Foote thanked Jim and Patty White for their presence with us in the past year. Jim will preach on June 14.

Catherine shared a closing blessing anticipating the coming year and giving gratitude for the past year.

Kathy Kripps declared the meeting closed at 12:45 pm.