

Minutes

Congregational Meeting Dec. 3, 2017

12:37pm

The meeting was brought to order by Maureen McGuire. A quorum was established.

1. **Minutes were read and approved by unanimous vote.**
2. **Treasurer Ranjan Batra presented the financial report.**

Because there was a budget gap last year, he has made some changes.

Income fell short because people pledged less than expected in the budget.

This year we will fall about \$2000 short of what people pledged, creating a Shortfall of around \$10000.

For next year, he proposes a much reduced budget.

Expenses:

Last year we spent a little less than we budgeted but we still had a deficit of almost \$13000. We will make up that shortfall by deduction from an account funded by a \$100,000 donation.

Buildings and grounds: Our bylaws don't assign responsibility to one person, so those duties have been assigned to the Living our Values team.

Total deficit may be around \$15,000 because affiliation costs were not included.

Assets are down by about \$27,000 because we have been spending money out of those accounts.

People are upping their pledges this year. Around \$24,000 has been pledged so far. About \$38,000 expected.

Schwab account has increased 43%.

Discussion of proposed budget ensued:

What would it take to put the pianist back in the programs budget? Pianist has been cut back to one Sunday a month in proposed budget.

Ranjan observed that there are pianists in our congregation that could contribute their talents.

Brian says we could save money by putting a block back on the thermostat.

Buildings and grounds has an increase to allow for yard costs that the Gores have been absorbing, housecleaning, garbage pickup, pest service—\$7000. Rest for repairs of front door and gutters, possibly shower in RE building.

Move to end discussion and move toward motions.

Jim Becker made a motion to reinstate Alan Black as pianist to two Sundays per month. Seconded. Discussion: Where would that money come from?

Tom Kersen suggested reducing social events to zero.

Jill Morgan suggested reducing utilities to pay pianist. Cut \$500.

Jim suggested reducing Changing our World to \$300.

A motion was made to accept the budget with 3 modifications: social events -200, utilities -500, social concerns -200. Programs budget to increase by \$1000 to \$2800. Seconded. Budget Passed with those modifications.

3. Donation of the Exell Buildings and Land

A donation of property valued at around \$325,000 has been offered to the church by Bill Dockery, owner of the Exell bottling company.

Photos of the property were shown and explained by Susan Voisin.

Discussion ensued.

Insurance will be about \$1800 if occupied.

Tom Kersen and Brian Heffner offered to help maintain the property.

A motion was made to accept the building. Seconded. A secret ballot vote was taken and 13 voted to accept, 6 to reject the donation. Motion to accept the donation of the Exell property carried.

4. Should the current property be kept on the market?

Ranjan read a statement from Stacy Callender regarding the need to move into a bigger space and the expenses required to fix the current buildings.

Discussion occurred about the ability of a larger space to attract more members (pro and con), the condition of the current buildings, and the possibility of growth in the area.

The Exell space is more off a beaten track.

A point was made that we should divide this decision from the Exell building. We should live with the Exell building and see what we discover.

Ranjan said that the decision to put the church on the market should be reviewed periodically. It has been 5 years since the decision was made to put the church on the market.

Kristen Golden made a motion to take the property off the market and at the next congregational meeting the Transition Taskforce will present us with information to make a decision about selling or keeping the property. Jill Morgan seconded.

A secret ballot vote was taken. The motion passed 16 to 4.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:06pm.