

Irvine United Congregational Church
Spring Congregational Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2012

Moderator, Keith Boyum called the meeting to order at 12:35 PM. Renae Boyum, confirmed there was a quorum present of 105 people. Senior Pastor Paul Tellstrom gave the opening prayer.

Announcements:

Rev Bil Aulenbach offered sign-ups for "Jesus was a Jew." Meredith Anderson reports finding a ring in the women's restroom, which was turned over to staff.

Housekeeping:

David Schofield is in attendance and is acting as our parliamentarian for this meeting. He is here to give advice as to correct parliamentarian procedure.

Nick Sanders moved that we accept the agenda as presented and Lester Ricks 2nd the motion.

Katrina Haynes made a motion to reorder the meeting, so that the motions regarding the building are addressed first. The motion was 2nd and a voice vote was taken. The motion was approved.

I. Motion to Receive the Report of the Consultant from the United Church of Christ Capital Campaign Services Division:

Moderator, Keith Boyum asked Cindy O'Dell to act as chair of the meeting at this time.

Keith made a motion to receive the report of Priscilla Bizer, consultant from the United Church of Christ Capital Campaign Services Division and Frank Larkin 2nd the motion. Keith Boyum, as moderator and a member of the task force took 10 minutes to discuss the motion.

Keith reviewed the timeline of how we have gotten this far. Our vision statement states that: "IUCC seeks growth in spirit, fellowship and number by becoming a more culturally diverse congregation; by strengthening our capacity to serve our neighbors and community; by caring for each other as God cares for us; by inviting others to be a part of our community of faith..." In November of 2009, we agreed to add an Assoc. Pastor. Dave Schofield and Renee Boyum gave a good report regarding our long-term planning in January 2011, when the Building Task Force was named and members were in place. Keith said, "We have no specific plan to give until we get our Conditional Use Permit (CUP) in place". Keith referred to page 10 in our packet, which shows that since 1998, our pledges have gone up 69% and our membership has increased by 48%.

Rev Paul Tellstrom reported that when he went to the ministry chairs and asked, "What do you need?" The answer was: meeting places, storage and parking.

It was mentioned that there is a motion on the floor to accept the report. Suellen Rowe asked, "Which report are we accepting?" She went on to say that the consultant was using a formula from the past and Suellen does not feel that the numbers are reflective of our readiness. The first report showed a readiness score of 66% and the second showed 64%.

Renee 2nd the motion to accept the report as presented and stop the discussion. A hand vote was taken with 47 for and 37 against stopping the discussion. Since we need a 2/3 vote, the discussion continued. Peggy Goetz asked about the point system and asked if this would change our readiness score. Nick Sanders stated that it is unfortunate that there is a discrepancy that could not be explained, since he knows that Priscilla worked very hard on the report. Laura Kemp said, the scale could be rated either way and there is not actually much difference. Cindy O'Dell pointed out that in statistical analysis a 2 point discrepancy would be considered standard. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

II. Motion to Establish a Building Fund:

Cindy O'Dell made a motion to establish a building fund and explained that the purpose of the building fund is to have a place to put money that is allocated for our new building campaign. Nick Sanders reported that some people already want to give money, so this fund will solve that concern. Susie Lang 2nd the motion. David Carruthers noted that we have \$28,000 in our account from Woodbridge that they pay for parking and this could be used for the building fund. Dave Schofield stated that no, the Woodbridge money is allocated for repairs and maintenance of our current buildings. There was a discussion about the wording of the motion suggesting that we use the word 'future', however this failed with a voice vote. Voice vote was taken to approve the motion to establish a building fund and it passed.

III. Motion to Approve Updating the Congregation's Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and to Hire a Consultant for this purpose:

Cindy O'Dell made a motion to approve updating IUCC's CUP and to hire a consultant to write the proposal to the City of Irvine and to present it. Nick Sanders second the motion. Priscilla Bizer suggested that we go to the city of Irvine to have our 3-phase building plan approved. Keith reported that we need a consultant to draw the plans and to present it to the City of Irvine. We will need to hold informal forums to inform the congregation of the plans. Four years from today, we expect to be ready to vote for the building plan. Keith said, "Are we ready?" "Bizer says that we are; we don't know what the plan is until we get the CUP in place." Keith reviewed Page 10 of the packet, which shows the progress that we have made as a congregation: by increasing our membership by 48%, by increasing our total contributions by 69%, and reducing our mortgage by 36%.

Discussion held regarding the \$30,000 proposed for the consultant. Jim Rayburn, who works as an architect with an architectural firm stated that the city will have charges that need to be paid and that the cost could exceed the \$30,000. He explained that we set up a bank account from which the city can withdraw funds.

What to renderings cost? Jim says that his firm gets \$2,000 for a plan. Gene Price, who heads 'building and grounds', stated that \$30,000 is a good place to start and if we need more, we will need to come back to the congregation. He reported that he works hard to keep the childcare center in compliance and just spent four hours there yesterday.

Suellen said, "It doesn't make sense to me that we would vote before voting on a building program." Cindy O'Dell explained, "In order to get everything going, we need to understand what the city will allow". They could have some concern with losing parking spaces. Dave Schfield said, "We do have a plan in place, it is on our website."

Jim St. Marie added that our plan encompasses 25 years out. Shirley Lorenz asked if we can go to the city with a concept rather than specific plan? Jim Rayburn responded, "I've been trying to get the City of Irvine to address our concept without any success for sometime now". Susie Lang said, "This is the way it is done? Right?" Jim responded, "Yes the City is excited about the project." They are aware of us, they know Rev. Tellstrom and understand that our preschool needs some changes. Dave Karsten explained that the city may want a new entrance to our grounds. Doreen Smith, asked, "Should we change our motion?" Jim responded, that he thinks \$30,000 is a low number. He talked to people in his firm and they thought that \$50,000 would be a closer figure.

Meredith Anderson asked two questions:

1. Where do we get additional funds? Keith responded that they would bring it back to the Admin. Board.
2. How did we come up with \$30,000?

Nick Sanders asked: "What if we need more money?" Keith responded, "We would call another congregational meeting." Dale Lang made a motion "to charge \$30,000 but allow the Admin. Board to up to \$50,000 if needed". Nick Sanders seconded the motion. Dave Schofield made a motion to close the debate. A voice vote was taken and the amendment was approved.

Suellen asked, "If we spend \$50,000, will we still have enough for salaries?" She also reminded us that at the end of 2011, we were \$37,000 short on our budget. Discussion was brought back to the report and it was determined that we have \$77,000 in reserves for this purpose.

Dave Caruthers moved that we accept the amended motions as written on page 93 of our packet. Brian Pearcy seconded the motion. It was passed with a voice vote.

New Business

Cindy O'Dell moved to accept the treasures report as written in our packet and Frank Larkin seconded the motion. It was passed with a voice vote.

Dave Schofield made a motion to add 'The Stephen's Ministry' to our Ministries Board. David Caruthers seconded the motion. Voice vote was taken and it was approved.

Cindy O'Dell made a motion to amend the budget to allow a 2% increase in salaries of our church staff. Martha Selby seconded the motion. This will be covered by reducing the hours for Robinmarie's position and by not filling it at once. Voice vote was taken to approve increases in salaries as stated on page 70 of our packet; it passed.

Ralph Pagter made a motion to approve all candidates as stated on page 71, including Howard Emery, who was listed with question marks.

State of the Church

Rev. Paul Tellstrom recognized those members of the congregation who are stepping down from their positions. He said, "Thank-you Keith for guiding us with great love and humor." All of the church staff were asked to stand and to be recognized. Paul reported that as a "Global Mission Church, we will be starting global mission work".

Laura Kemp has been accepted to Claremont School of Theology and she will be presented to the Admin. Board for approval to make her "a member in discernment". Brian Pearcy 1st the amendment and Wayne Banwell 2nd the motion.

Adjournment

Associate Pastor, Rev. Elizabeth Griswold gave the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Shaffstall
Clerk, Ministries Board