

Unity in Edinboro
Board Meeting
June 7, 2009

PRESENT: Ray Sammartino, Caroll Boyer, Leona Bickel, Cheryl Wenslow, Jean Kimura, Joanne Rowden

ABSENT:

1. Opening Prayer-9:12 am
2. Minutes-CB/LB-Unanimous
3. Financials-Income is still down and we need to increase weekly contributions. CW/LB-Unanimous. Joanne will invite Ray to say a few words at our service this week to keep the congregation informed of our current situation.
4. Old Business:
 - a. Lease/Apartment
 - i. Upstairs apartment-\$570 per month including all utilities (if paid by 1st)
 1. Lease renews August 1
 - ii. Downstairs apartment-\$970 per month including all utilities (if paid by 1st)
 1. Lease renewed June 1
 - iii. Our utilities are over-budget by \$150 per month.
 - iv. In addition the church has been supplementing the mortgage by \$300 per month. At the time of closing, the mortgage on just the church was about \$14000. Since the new mortgage is over 20 years, the actual payment on the amount due just for the church is more like \$120 vs. \$300 per month. At this point, the apartments can not support the increase in utilities AND an increase to cover the mortgage.
 - v. **Motion:** Increase the rent by \$75 per apartment to cover the increase in utilities. CW/JK-Unanimous
 - vi. Ray will write up the leases and get them to Caroll for signature.
 - b. Welcoming Practice-
 - i. Our focus is not on growth but on making visitors feel welcome which will naturally lead to growth
 - ii. Welcome envelope is a good tool
 - iii. Barn will hopefully increase Youth attendance. A picture of the "clubhouse" to include in the packet
 - iv. Before peace song-repeat invitation to the visitors to join us downstairs; also invite them at that time to sign the welcome book again. Joanne suggested that there be a group of people who will personally ask the visitor to go downstairs, get a cup of coffee, introduce them around.
 - v. Make the visitors a priority at the end of the service
 - vi. How to attract those who are MIA (used to come on a regular basis but no longer do). Thinking of You cards. Joanne suggested that this is a great idea, but again we need someone in charge of sending these cards.
 - vii. Congregational meetings suggested more often than just annually to give people a chance to bring up concerns
 - viii. Be cautious of making too many changes over a short period of time
 - ix. Consider formal approach of special music-Music director to take leadership position of those wanting to perform in the church (including a choir).

- x. Board members take a more active role in personally welcoming new faces
 - xi. Additional song in the service rather than just opening hymn
 - xii. Children's service in which the Youth are highlighted.
 - xiii. More organization in the kitchen
 - xiv. Too much activity in the service-is it a disruption to have individuals participating in the service. It is more casual rather than more formal. Is there too much outside of "spiritual service" that is going on
 - xv. We are asking Leona to take the greeting/cards ideas back to the committee to formalize. **Motion:** Response with suggestion if they are willing to accept responsibility of greeting the new visitors, and sending the Thinking of You Cards out. RS/JK-Unanimous
- c. Change in Service Time-The vote came in very close however there were just a couple more votes for the 11:00 a.m. service time.
 - d. Gardening-Ray did not speak to Barry or Beverly. He will speak to them today if they are present.
 - e. Bell Tower update-Gary and Dennis came up with a solution. It still needs to be trimmed down a bit, and Gary Dennis will complete the project next week.
5. New Business:
- a. New board members
 - i. Ray did ask Pat Dunn, however he has declined at this time.
 - ii. Ray suggested Joanne Munzert. Joanne suggested that Joseph Briggs will be back in mid-July and Joanne will email him to see if he would be interested. Joseph is on his homeward bound journey, but perhaps he would answer as to his interest.
 - iii. Ray asked the board members to keep our eyes open to a suitable congregant who is willing to serve on the board.
6. Next Phone call with Paula on THURSDAY, July 30 at 7:00 p.m. We are working on the Vision for Unity in Edinboro. We need the input of our whole board. Please let Joanne know if you can not make the phone call.
7. Next board meeting: July 12 at 9:00 a.m.
8. Closing prayer