

**Brecksville United Methodist Church  
Finance Committee  
May 19, 2008 Meeting Minutes**

In attendance: David Brown, , , Kristi Eberhardt, , Mary Jane Matts, , Ann Rittman and Emily Vincent.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. Minutes from the April 21 meeting were approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

Les reported that the church has received 226 pledges to date. The amount has increased by \$300. Missions has reduced its budget by \$3,000, and Karen has reduced the Salaries & Allowances budget by \$500. The total pledged amount is \$458,213, leaving us with a projected deficit of \$30,284 for the year.

We are currently \$423.12 more in revenue over expenses through April 30, 2008. We are doing extremely well in terms of this year's budget with people and committees being extra frugal. Jeff Schillo has finished his financial review. The current balance for the capital funds is \$112,161.77.

**Old Business**

Group Review of Les' Financial Records – There used to be a monthly bank reconciliation where committee members reviewed the finance officer's records and signed off on them, a practice that was done with John Faulk. The committee reviewed this, and both the committee and Les felt comfortable without doing it. Instead, the committee will review a listing of checks written for \$5,000 or more on a quarterly basis.

Different Revenue Streams – Kristi talked with Stacy Parker, and they have made some progress on the fund-raising ideas. They are thinking about marketing the brick pavers in June and July with the installation occurring in August. The idea is to have a 10' by 14' patio with park benches around it. The church would sell 8" by 8" pavers for \$175-200 and 4" by 8" pavers for \$100. Gifts & Memorial is behind it. The next step is deciding on which two colors of brick pavers we want and ordering some bricks. Kristi will work with someone in the church office to pull names of past members who may want to buy a paver. Lisa Drew also suggested having some of the youth to help out. Don Krolikowski has offered his services to create some posters.

Kristi also traded voicemails with Linda Coatoam to find out the vendor's name for the reusable grocery bags. These bags would probably sell in the \$10-15 range. The total cost for the fund-raising program is projected to be \$15,000-18,000 with revenue of \$40,000 based on 200 of the 8" by 8" and 50 of the 4" by 8" pavers being sold. Also, it was determined that we would get sand-blasted etched pavers with an epoxy coating.

Sports Banquet – Les hasn't heard more from Jim Houston regarding this. Jim was going to find out available dates for potential speaker Jerry Lucas.

Cell Tower – Ann said Carl Opatrny told her that cell phone companies are very selective in terms of determining sites for a cell phone tower. Mary Jane suggested Carl investigate AT&T's interest since her service in and around the church is bad.

Garage Sale – Ann forgot to ask Jane Petrie to see if she is willing to do one more garage sale to raise money for the operating budget. Ideally, this would be held sometime in the fall. Ann will contact Jane and ask.

Stewardship Campaign – Karen asked that we all start thinking about the stewardship campaign and put dates on the calendar. It was determined that it would start the second Sunday of October (Oct. 12) and run through the second Sunday of November (Nov. 9).

Lay Leadership Committee – Ann asked that if we know of any people to nominate to Finance committee to please pass names along to the Lay Leadership Committee.

### **New Business**

The rest of the meeting was a discussion on the capital campaign and paying for the improvements. Bids came in right where we expected. Our goal for the capital campaign was \$400,000, and we've got 87 percent of that goal pledged (\$343,000). There was a suggestion of extending the campaign from three to four years. Ann shared her concerns with this idea, including how this may cause another deficit in our operating budget (an impact that the current capital campaign had on our 2008 budget) and timing (when to bring this up to the congregation).

Of concern is that the projection system, which was one of the improvements included in the \$400,000 campaign goal, was left off the bids. The cost for a projection system with a single screen is \$20,000-22,000. Gifts & Memorial has money in the \$600,000 range. It spends \$30,000-35,000 a year with the interest money they earn each year. It was suggested that the projection system would be an ideal thing that Gifts & Memorial could give to the church.

The committee then discussed the pros and cons of one or two projection screens. Janet also suggested a "Retire the Debt" campaign. This could be done a year or two after the capital campaign has ended. The church is already borrowing from Gifts & Memorial to fund the capital campaign shortfall.

Next steps would be for Finance and Trustees to get a letter of commitment from Gifts & Memorial before sending a letter to the congregation to let them know where things stand, that the projection system would be a gift coming from Gifts & Memorial and remaining dollars to be borrowed from Gifts & Memorial over what is currently pledged. The letter could ask members to consider making a pledge now and notify them to anticipate another campaign in the future to fulfill the entire campaign. The letter would be signed by Trustees and Finance, telling the congregation that "we're not asking for more – we're asking for the rest." In terms of timing, the committee agreed that the letter should be sent out while construction is still going on.

Also, another next step is for Trustees to get a special dispensation of the spending limit (if required) at the July Administrative Board meeting. Ann will contact the Trustees regarding this.

Next meeting: June 16, 2008 @ 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.