

Brecksville United Methodist Board of Trustees
Meeting July 14, 2008

Present: Jeff Fesler, Karen Oehl, Janet Kleckner, Carol Wilson, Bob Lundholm, Les Buttolph, Kay AuWerter. Special guest: Kristi Eberhardt.

Rev. Oehl opened in prayer.

Welcome to new members, Carol Wilson and Bob Lundholm. Ken Wise is also in the new class of trustees.

Kristi Eberhardt came as a representative from the Finance Committee who has been working with Stacy Parker from Gifts and Memorials on a project to fill the gap in the operating budget and improve our church grounds with a brick patio on the front lawn. Based on the shortfall in the budget, research into what other cities, schools, etc. have charged for bricks, the size of patio we want, etc., the following figures were part of the report handed out. An 8x8 brick (the size that will be encouraged) will cost \$250. A second brick of that size can be purchased for \$50 (\$300 for 2). A 4x8 will cost \$100.

A landscape designer (in Scott Campbell's family) came to consult about design. What we are looking at now is a 14x14 hexagon in the middle of the lawn, perhaps with a walkway to the front sidewalk. Border of sandstone or limestone. We looked at colors of bricks and chose a soft red similar to the building. Estimated number of bricks needed is 490. Stacy is estimating 200 to be sold initially, which gives us room to grow and continue to make these bricks available for commemoration in the coming years. Kristi and Stacy will continue to move forward with the plan.

Further trustee business began by looking at and approving minutes from the June meeting, and Kay shared some materials on the responsibilities of the trustees and a policy put into place last year guiding decisions about maintenance and work in the building.

A question was raised about the new building use fees and policies. This new policy was sent to all groups and individuals who use the church and goes into effect at the beginning of August. Groups such as Kiwanis and the Community Chorus have been asked to consider making a donation to help cover the actual operating costs of building use. There is some confusion over whether this is a fee. It is a "suggested donation" and these groups are encouraged to be creative in helping us make the building available. For example, Kiwanis by contributing to our missions in place of our operating budget funds, Community Chorus asking for a free will offering to cover building costs, etc. Karen will bring copies of the policy to the next meeting for all Trustees. Questions should be directed to Irma or Karen.

Renovation project items.

Cork floor. Some damaged tiles will be replaced and/or resealed. Some were sealed poorly, others simply have been damaged by sharp heels or rocking back on heels. We'll put some notes in the bulletin encouraging people to be conscious of caring for the new floor, which is a bit softer than vinyl tile.

The punch list for the sanctuary has been verified by Jeff Fesler. A couple of questions: when are blinds coming? (unknown) Why no door between new storage room and organ area? (height issue) Will there be molding on curved walls to match other walls? (probably not) What about hymnal racks that were removed from the balcony, probably by the painters? (Les has some from the leftover pews that we can install)

Office furniture. The work stations will be built by another contractor, not Neshkin, who offered just work surfaces.

A projection system has been agreed on and an initial payment made to Media Integrators. Two projectors up front, two retractable screens.

An agreement has now been drafted to borrow money for the project up to \$400,000 from Gifts and Memorials. The chair of trustees is empowered to sign this agreement. The group asked that there be a note as part of this that we understand we do not have \$400,000 in pledges, and will need to go back to the congregation at some point for a debt retirement. Finance is still looking at asking Gifts and Memorials to forgive the amount of the projection system as a way of decreasing the amount the congregation will need to repay that fund. This will also help make the mission and help of Gifts and Memorials more visible!

Other business:

Stone work on the east side of the building is done.

Concrete steps on the west side have a space between steps and building, probably needing caulking.

A new custodian should be hired by the end of the week.

Kay and Les are working on ways to lock into better future gas prices through Integrys (sp?). This would be attractive especially if we can renegotiate in the case of prices going down, instead of up, as expected. A win both ways. More to follow.

Meeting adjourned with prayer. Next meeting August 11.

At next meeting will need to discuss a vice-chair (chair in training) and divisions between church interior, church exterior, grounds, and parsonage. John Dietrich the new chair. Also need a new secretary.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Oehl

