

Minutes of January 11, 2009 Congregational Meeting

A quorum was established with 52 voting members signed in as present.

Meeting was called to order after lunch was served. Rev. Jennie gave general guidelines for how she hoped we would all conduct the discussion. She reminded us to be civil and to use lots of “I” statements.

President Kay Azar gave opening words and introduced the Building Feasibility Task Force. The committee members are Chuck Leone, Kathy Platt, Allyson Kricheff, Ann Mannix, Bob Shuman.

Chuck Leone gave a brief history of the committee and explained the committee’s process in their work. He referenced the 2005 Strategic Plan Report that was used as a basis for their work. (Plan is attached)

Kathy Platt detailed the work the committee had completed including polling the congregation, holding many small group meetings, doing research on zoning and possible locations, reading the book “When Not to Build”, consulting with Don Wheeler, Brendan Crumlish, and others regarding possibility of expanding current building, met with neighbors, visited other churches for sale, rejected 9 churches that would not meet our needs, spoke with members of the congregation, and met with potential groups to share a building with.

The committee then gave a report on what they felt were the pro’s and con’s of each of the five options they think are available to the congregation.

1. Status Quo
- 2A. Convention New Construction
- 2B. Modular New Construction
3. Rehab Our Existing Church
4. Purchase an Existing Church
5. Share a Building

Cost projections for each option were provided and discussed, as well as possible sources for funding. See attached written report.

Discussion by members of the congregation followed.

Comments made by members included concerns about aesthetics of building, parking, accessibility of building, membership fluctuation, the economy and timing of capital campaign, how building effects search for minister, not wanting anything too “churchy”, experience of seeing building sharing work in other cities, issues of growth, outreach to wider community, and meeting our mission. Most members spoke in favor of option 4 or 5. However a minority opinion was expressed by a few members who were strongly in favor of option 3.

The Discussion was ended and Kay Azar thanked everyone for the wonderful discussion and ended the meeting with a quote from her husband Deeb. She called for members to indicate their preferences by placing their “ballot” on the sheet that was posted on the wall the was the option that they favored. Half votes were allowed.

Members placed their ballots.

It was moved by Ellen Triebold and seconded by Kathy Vetter that the meeting be adjourned.

January 11, 2009 Meeting Results				
Options for the Church Building				
	Partial Votes	Full Votes	Total	Weighted Votes
1) Status Quo		1	1	1
2) Conventional New Construction	3		3	1.5
3) Modular New Construction	1		1	.5
4) Expand Existing Church	15	3	18	10.5
5) Buy an Existing Church	3	23	26	24.5
6) Share a Building	13	27	40	33.5

Weighted votes = partial votes (counted as .5 each) + full votes.