

Special Congregational Meeting  
13 December 2015 Approved Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Joseph Gress, board president, at 12.05pm.

It was determined that the quorum was satisfied. (33 members had signed in when the meeting began; 2 more signed in later.)

Joseph explained that the business of the meeting was to approve signing a contract for a new HVAC system costing up to \$160,000; borrowing up to \$112,000 from First Source; and funding the balance.

As an unrelated announcement, Joseph noted that Charlotte Hale, our office manager, no longer works for us. A search for her replacement has begun. Church credit cards were used for unauthorized purchases and a police report has been filed. Carlton will cover the office for the rest of the month; Kathy Vetter will be the office person for January and February.

Joseph reviewed why the HVAC system needs to be replaced. He discussed the recommendations from the energy consultant, the \$154,000 quote from Allegiant for a new system; the review by Roland Klockow, an independent consulting HVAC engineer. Klockow viewed the concept of the proposed system favorably but had concerns about some of the specifics, concerns which only became available last week. After hearing these concerns at last week's board meeting, the board determined that it was not ready to sign a contract with Allegiant. Chuck Leone, treasurer, presented highlights of the concerns: too expensive; state approval needed; ventilation not adequately addressed (which would be a concern for the state); furnace not necessarily needed in the attic; a different configuration for the heat pumps would be more efficient.

Jerry Brooks asked how many estimates had been obtained. Chuck answered, one. Joseph explained that we have other quotes for replacing parts of the existing system; two years ago, Panzica estimated \$109,000 to update parts of the system, and this year Jim Ward and John Wegener had estimates of about \$100,000 to update the system. Kathy Vetter noted that we decided to get an independent review rather than first looking for a different system, which would be difficult to compare.

Peggy Stevens asked if the consultant thought we should look elsewhere for a system. Joseph explained that the HVAC task force will be meeting with the consultant this week to discuss the findings.

Barbara Williams moved, and Walt Tomasch seconded, that we should secure affidavits of independence that disclose any financial relationship with any HVAC contractors from Jonathan Burke (the energy consultant) and Roland Klockow (the HVAC engineer). Motion carried with 24 in favor, 8 opposed, and 5 abstaining.

Joseph discussed where the money for a new system would come from:

\$ 48,000 from capital campaign and building fund

\$112,000 from First Source Loan

A new system could save us at least \$800 a month in energy costs, maintenance, repairs.

He saw three options for today's meeting:

1. Authorize the board to sign a contract for an HVAC replacement system
2. Don't authorize signing now but hold another congregational meeting to authorize when there is a new plan
3. Authorize the board to get a second quote, decide on the system, and sign a contract for no more than \$160,000.

Anne Mannix moved, and Florence seconded, option #3. Discussion. Concerns were expressed that the congregation should know what the final plan was before any contracts were signed. Walt Tomasch noted that too proprietary a design can be more expensive to maintain. Ultimately, Anne withdrew the motion, with Florence's agreement.

Alan Hamlet moved, and Dale seconded, that the board be authorized to get an alternate HVAC design, evaluate the full cost of the system including costs for obtaining state approval, and that the board should evaluate the design, get additional bids if possible, and then ask for congregational approval. As a friendly amendment, accepted by Alan and Dale, Darlene Catello asked that the cost for repairing and/or replacing the current HVAC system be found. Motion carried with 33 in favor, none opposed, and 5 abstaining.

The meeting adjourned at 1.30pm.

Fern Hamlin  
Board secretary