

Special Congregational Meeting  
8 December 2013  
Approved Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 12.15pm by board president David Mayfield. A quorum was certified by board secretary Fern Hamlin. 63 members (including proxy vote holders) were signed in.

David noted that the current amount pledged to the Capital Campaign is about \$300,000; of that, about \$50,000 has already been paid. Thanks were offered to the Capital Campaign Task Force.

David provided a brief background of how we came to the point of today's meeting. The board's motion was read by Fern.

David reviewed the two new handouts, which provide estimated financial breakdowns of the construction loan/mortgage and endowment fund repayment, and the estimated operating expenses for 801 E Washington. Handout #1 is based on the board's recommendations. Handout #2 is based on a just-received bank recommendation to make quarterly payments to the principal of \$17,500 for the first three years.

Discussion followed.

Barbara Williams raised the questions of UUA funding and the use of the already-existing Building Fund for the renovation. She suggested amending the motion to specify that the Building Fund, like the Capital Campaign, would also be used to remodel the new building.

Bill Stevens seconded Barb's amendment. He thought there was a lack of clarity in the financial distinctions in the board's presentation, a lack of clarity regarding what money will be used for what.

David responded by explaining that we would first use the bank line of credit, and then money from the Endowment Fund. The Capital Campaign money would go into the Building Fund and, for the first two years, would be used to pay the debt; after that, it would also be used to repay the Endowment Fund.

Bob Asplund opposed the motion. He thought it was unduly complicated and that it gave priority to the Endowment Fund "as if those dollars were sacred." He felt that this indicated that our vision was regressive, and that we would not grow with a regressive vision.

Elizabeth Scarborough noted her role on the Capital Campaign Task Force, which was to record Capital Campaign pledges and the timetable on which they would be paid. This is a complicated process, and she remains unclear as to exactly when much of the money will come in. She provided an explanation of the purpose of the Endowment Fund, which was not that of a super-savings account.

David suggested that, for Barb's amendment, the words "The Building Fund and" be placed at the beginning of the sentence now reading "Capital campaign donations collected prior to mid-January." This amendment was carried by a show of hands.

Heather Eschbach appreciated Elizabeth's explanation of the purpose of an Endowment Fund. She asked if anyone knew what Bev Tudor's intentions were when leaving her estate to the church. Bob Asplund answered that there were no specified intentions indicated by Bev.

Lynn McDonald asked the reason for the phrase "collected prior to mid-January." David explained that the time specification was to allow for changes in the remodeling plan (like the addition of a moveable partition) while changes could still be made. She also asked what the figures in the Building Fund column on Handout #1 meant. David explained that these show the addition of Capital Campaign pledge money and the payment of the debt to the bank.

John Wegener had questions on the difference between the loan payments on Handout #1 and Handout #2.

Jan Wilen noted that there were strong feelings on the use and purpose of the Endowment Fund and thought this question should be resolved.

Lois Stiffler questioned the potential for interest of the Building Fund/Capital Campaign monies.

Lois Holm moved the amendment that the money from the Endowment Fund would not be paid back. Dave Wistreich seconded.

Karen Dickson, treasurer, spoke regarding her concern for the long-range financial viability of our congregation and the need to have emergency funds.

Kathy Vetter spoke of the value of the Endowment Fund for use with our visions for the future.

Roger Birdsell felt we should defeat the amendment so that we could return to the main motion.

Heather Eschbach thought we should pass the amendment so that we could proceed with the renovation.

Barb Carmichael noted that the Endowment Fund could continue to grow.

Melanie Smith-Guillaume reminded the congregation that the Endowment Fund can currently distribute about \$10,000 annually, which could be used towards paying the debt.

Kevin Barry commented that the original motion appears to take into account both sides of the Endowment Fund issue.

Lynn McDonald wondered if the Endowment Fund earns more than the mortgage costs.

Susan VanFleit called the question. 30 opposed the motion, 22 supported it, and 4 abstained. The amendment failed.

Dave Wistreich called the main question. Paper ballots were distributed. Mary Alice Hardy and Dan Holm served as tellers. The motion carried with a vote of 52 in favor, 6 opposed, and 3 abstaining.

John Wegener moved to adjourn, Dave Wistreich seconded.

David Mayfield adjourned the meeting at 2.20pm.

Fern Hamlin  
Board secretary