

BOARD NOTES

The SCC Board met in the Gathering Space on the evening of January 19, 2012. Cindy Plouge offered the opening reflection by reading a prayer by Trappist Monk Thomas Merton. The prayer expresses the difficulty in discerning God's will but asserts our belief that God is pleased if we simply seek to please God. We trust that we never walk alone.

The Board was happily informed that SCC ended 2011 in the black, that our mortgage arrearage was caught up, and that we were able to continue paying back to the restricted funds. Concerning the mortgage, the Board was aware that we are in the final six months of a three-year capital campaign and that traditionally that time in a mortgage repayment creates arrearages. Chair Jim Ream and Vice-chair Dean Phelps plan to meet with representatives of Church Extension to discuss ways that may help prevent such arrearages in the coming months.

We also learned how well Shannon Sedgwick is doing with the youth and children. There is excitement in her ministry with our younger folks. Be sure to thank her when you see her for the splendid job she is doing.

The Board also did some cleaning up in the By-laws. It was recently discovered that the amendments from September of 2011 inadvertently created some inconsistencies in the By-laws. Specifically, those amendments provided that the chairs of the Elders, Diaconate, and Oversight are not automatically members of the Board. Rather, those ministry teams are permitted to select their own representative. The problem, however, was that other areas of the By-laws said otherwise. The Board corrected these inconsistencies by simply removing the later language. The September amendments stating who represents the Elders, Diaconate, and Oversight remain in force.

There was additional discussion about the Verizon cell tower negotiations that are ongoing. Jason Kixmiller told us of a conversation he had with an electrician about lightning issues with cell towers. Jason told us that the level of grounding of such towers is usually much greater than any requirements. Should lightning strike, it will more likely hit the tower instead of nearby structures. The Board, however, decided that the electrical grounding for SCC should be inspected just to be safe.

Rev. Doug Lofton informed the Board that the church has received bids for a new phone system. The present system is outdated and there will be no possibility of repair should it fail. There's also the need to find a new internet provider due to the upcoming lapse of a very beneficial plan that we've had for a few years. It's hoped to have systems that will cover phone, internet, and limited television service for not much more per month than our present phone system costs.

Heidi Roll, who represents Oversight on the Board, asked an insightful question to us toward the end of our meeting. She wondered if there could be some training session for new Board members to help them learn about pending matters on the Board and to increase their knowledge on the structure of the church. The rest of the Board agreed that would be an

excellent idea. Jim Ream suggested having new members attend the June meeting so that they could observe a typical Board meeting and ask questions at that time.

The Board plans to meet at an earlier time in February. The Momentum Team, which is seeking ways to strengthen SCC's environment and mindset for ministry, will be engaging the Board in conversation. It should be an invigorating and interesting conversation.

We ask that you continue to keep the SCC leadership and congregation in your prayers. As Thomas Merton prayed, we do not see the road ahead of us and we cannot be certain where it will end. But, we do seek to please God and we know that whatever comes, God walks with us. We are surely blessed!

~The Board