

Evangelical Covenant Church, Lafayette, Indiana

Congregational Meeting

May 17, 2009

Attending:

Balkema, Max,	Houser, Blythe	Reno, Daniel
Balkema, Maxine	Johnson, Max	Reno, Linda
Beranek, Marcia	Johnson, Susie	Ritter, Al
Browning, Deb	Kincanon, Kurt	Satchel, PJ
Browning, Mark	Kliene, Andy	Senesac, Denise
Burt, Kristen	Littlefield, Kim	Smith, Carol
Burt, Michael	Littlefield, Stacey	Smith, Dave
Busenitz, Allen	March, Carole	Smith, L Joe
Campfield, Ken	McCutcheon, Neal	Smith, Ron
Cogswell, Todd	McFadden, Bob	Snyders, Sharon
Dillman, Mary	McLenning, Mark	Speakman, Cheryl
Evans, Ed	Ooms, Bill	Speakman, Jeff
Gourko, Joyce	Ooms, Ronda	Steffen, Ray
Habermann, John	Patty, Doug	Wells, Linda
Habermann, Stephanie	Pence, Shirley	Wells, Rich
Hartman, Joel	Puterbaugh, Susan	
Hartman, Kara	Puterbaugh, Tom	
Held, David	Quesada, Victor	
Held, Sharon	Quesada, Virginia	
Hodson, Renee	Reese, Bill	

1. Ron Smith, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:55pm. A Quorum was established, and Ron opened the meeting in prayer.
2. Ron presented the meeting agenda which was accepted and approved.
3. The minutes from the January 25, 2009 congregational meeting were approved with a spelling correction.
4. Ron reminded the members that according to Robert's Rules of Order, that any member, at any congregational meeting, could make a motion for consideration. If the motion is seconded, it will be voted upon.
5. Susan Puterbaugh presented the Diaconate's recommendations for new members: Kelly and Adam Dugger, Rene Herber, April Quesada, Andrew Hart. Motion for approval was seconded, and approved unanimously.
6. CFO Report: Pastor Kurt Kincannon – see slides: 4-10
  - a. Year to date giving (10 month fiscal year) is short of plan, but with a positive cash flow for the period, due in part to expense control, and open staff positions.
  - b. 2009-2010 Budget proposal:
  - c. The proposed budget represents a decrease of 2.69% compared to the current budget. Staff salaries will remain unchanged, decreases in administrative, general, and payroll expenses, and increases in outreach and staff expenses (See CFO Report, slides 4-10). After discussing details of several line items, the budget was approved by voice vote.

7. There were questions and discussion about the elimination of the position for Kids club and children's church. The Kid's Club program has come to an end, and the Children's Church role is to move forward with a lay leader rather than a paid position.
8. This led to further discussion regarding how we determine which positions are filled with paid staff, and which are filled with lay leaders. Ron indicated that these are considered on a case by case basis as they come up.
9. There was discussion about why the youth pastor salary was less than other pastor salaries. Ron indicated that this was a topic of ongoing conversation with the council, and that the decision was to leave salaries flat at this point in time.
10. PJ Satchell asked what happens with budgeted salary dollars that go unspent while the search committees look to fill the positions. Kurt responded that those dollars increase the cash balance, and pay for other opportunities or expenses as they arise.
11. Because Aaron spends 25% of his time on worship, what will he be doing when Pastor Bannister begins full time? Bob indicated that he had initially suggested the 75/25 split for Aaron to help out with the worship function, but that he would be reverting back to full time youth focus. It was asked when this became a full time position, because the former youth intern position was for 30 hours/week. Kurt said the change from an intern position that was 30 hours/week to a full time youth director position was made a year ago with the approval of the 2008-2009 budget.
12. There was some discussion regarding having 2 full time positions for middle/high school, and should we consider balancing to have more for elementary ages. This led to discussion about vision for youth ministries, and what the overarching vision was.
13. Al Ritter made a motion to leave the proposed budget as is with respect to youth and childrens ministries, and to have council schedule a follow-up meeting to discuss vision for youth and children's ministries. The motion was seconded and the conversation went back to consideration of the proposed budget.
14. A question was asked as to why there were additional monies requested for men's ministries and not women's ministries. The answer was that men's ministries has been identified as a critical success factor, and the additional monies were largely targeted for a speaker at the men's retreat.
15. A question was asked regarding an increase in the missions budget. Al Ritter indicated that the supported missionaries had not been given an increase in 5 years. Al was asked if the names of the missionaries could be publicized, perhaps on the website. Al indicated that for security reasons, the names are not publicized in that way. That information is available from the missions commission but will not be published on the website.
16. A motion was made to accept the proposed budget as presented. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote.
17. Neal McCutcheon reported for the Worship pastor Search Committee, that Bo Bannister had accepted the call to be the ECC Worship Pastor, and would start June 18, 2009. Many thanks to the members of that search committee for their hard work.

18. Tom Puterbaugh reported for the Discipleship Pastor Search Committee, and reported that there is much activity and that good progress is being made. There was some discussion about the open forum that was held regarding this position, and whether or not the committee should be moving forward. Tom reiterated that they were moving forward, and had not been asked to stop. No motions were made to change the direction of the search committee.
19. Ron Smith presented the Church Council Chairman report. Not much to discuss with the search committee updates already given, and discussion of the Kids Club/Children's Church position elimination (effective 7/31/2009) had already taken place.
20. Pastor Stacey gave the Lead Pastor report (see slides 14 – 15). Special thank-you to Melissa Millis and Tim Ahlgrim for filling the gap as Interim Pastors until the Discipleship Pastor role could be filled. Pastor Stacey will continue his involvement in the Ministry Advantage program.
21. Pastor Bob gave the Youth Pastor Report (see slides 16-17). Pastor Bob was asked how he accounted for low attendance. Bob indicated that middle school attendance averaged between 30-50, and High School between 14-20. The meeting night was switched back to Tuesday from Sunday night. Between Tue evening and several small groups, Bob estimated that 40-50 kids are involved, and about 75% of those are from ECC. Bob indicated that they have been talking with Young Life and Lafayette Community Church about partnering for some youth activities.
22. Ronda Ooms gave the Children's Ministry report (see slide 18).
23. Ron asked if there was any new business. With no new business, he entertained a motion to dismiss, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jeff Speakman, Council Secretary.