



ELDER BOARD MINUTES
September 11, 2017

Board Elders Present: The following Board Elders were present: Dallas Hayden, Chairman, Mike Bickley, Doug Brownlee, Clay Cartwright, Greg Emas, Jeff Glendening, Steven Kern, Dennis Miller, Mike Oberholtzer, Tom Seibert, BJ Weil

Board Elders Absent: Ray Zuercher (Sabbatical)

Non-Board Elders and Guests Present: Ed Simon, Elder/Treasurer, for Financial Report

Agenda Items:

- The meeting was opened in prayer by Greg Emas at 8:20 p.m.
- Chairman Dallas Hayden welcomed new board members Clay Cartwright, Dennis Miller, Mike Oberholtzer, and BJ Weil.

- Jeff Glendening moved and Steven Kern seconded a motion that the minutes of the August 14, 2017 regular Board meeting be approved; followed by a unanimous affirmative vote.

- Ed Simon presented the financial summary for July (prepared by Karl Morgner, Financial Analyst).
 - **Contributions**
 - The fiscal year ended with record generosity from the congregation. In fact, in the fourth quarter contributions were an unprecedented (10 year history) 26.3% of the total year's giving.
 - Total contributions grew 6.1% in 1016/17 versus 2015/16.
 - Factors that may have contributed to this blessing were identified as more automatic on-line giving, the Generous Church programming, and the spring/summer sermon series on generosity.

 - **Expenses**
 - Expenses were 5.2% below budget and only \$2k more than the previous year.

 - **Reserves**
 - Year end general fund reserves were \$119,300 versus zero last year

Old Business:

- Finance Committee: Chairman Dallas Hayden reported on the purpose and progress of the Finance Committee formation and expressed the urgency of the committee's full development and implementation.
- Name change: No progress was reported.
- Elder Retreat: No progress was reported.

New Business

- Chairman Hayden reviewed his "Chairman Challenge", overall guiding objectives for the year.
 1. Support of staff and volunteers
 2. Congregational engagement
 3. Facility utilization and growth
 4. Promote the congregation's spiritual health
- Staffing update: Mike Bickley led an extensive conversation about staff issues, responsibility shifts, and future needs. There was much discussion. No actions were taken.
- M2819: The Missions Team proposal to contribute \$12,000 for sending missionaries to the Muslim and Coptic strong hold people group and to train pastors for four years in Ethiopia was given. Mike Bickley moved and Doug Brownlee seconded that we authorize this proposal. Motion carried unanimously.
- Church planting; Opportunities to plant and/or support new and existing church plants was discussed at length. The discussion included specific opportunities as well as philosophical approaches to church planting. There was much discussion, but no action was taken. Mike Bickley will gather further information for later discussion.
- The topics of Men's ministry and Tracking key metrics of the congregation was tabled for lack of time.
- A motion/second to adjourn by Clay Cartwright/Steven Kern and subsequent unanimous affirmative vote, resulted in the meeting being adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Seibert, acting secretary