

RAMF Congregational Meeting 15 November 2002

House of Klassen

Present: Bob Carter (facilitator), Judy Bernhart, Maria Calderon, Sue Klassen, Roger Kurtz, Eileen Metzger, Thom Metzger, Kathy Shelly, Mark Shelly, Sonya Stauffer-Kurtz, Chrissie Walls, Walt Nickeson (recorder)

Reports

Leadership Team (Thom) The LT has been spending much time on people and location issues. It has been looking at a long-term study in spring for Adult Hour.

Worship Committee (Bob) Positive feedback has continued to be received regarding worship. The service at this year's Retreat was good at focussing on the theme of service. Comments on the footwashing which was part of that service included:

- The relaxed atmosphere was good;
- For some it was uncomfortable;
- It made an impression on at least one child.

Bob raised the question of whether footwashing ought to be incorporated into more worship services, rather than being confined, as at present, to that of Maundy Thursday.

Treasurer (Kathy) The current balance sheet was distributed. Some numbers not on that sheet:

- \$5,421 = Checking account balance
- \$36,803 = Savings account balance
- \$29,600 = Building fund (included in savings). The comment was made, and acknowledged, that that Fund should have its own line on the balance sheet
- \$7,500 = Pledged toward the Building Fund but not reflected in the [special?] Offerings line.

Some other points of note:

- The figure spent on Facilities reflects \$150/week added to the Building Fund
- The figure for Bethsaida represents health insurance payments for Aregash
- The high figure for Retreat was due to the large number of attendees, childcare costs, and the honorarium and travel costs of ?? Preheim.

Location Committee (Mark)

Announcements:

- In the city of Rochester, property zoned Residential may be used for a church
 - Uncle Victor Klassen can produce architects' plans three months after our requirements and desires are finalized
 - An "early draft of building requirements" has been distributed and comments are invited.
- Empty lots zoned Commercial are quite expensive and all leads have fizzled out. After many months of looking, the Committee is running out of steam. The plot at 111 Hillside Ave. is still on the market and still seems to be the best thing available. Our final offer for that property [in what month?] elicited a final counter-offer of \$70,000. The Committee, assuming that RAMF's previous limit of \$60,000 on a purchase offer was still firm, wondered if some individuals might be willing to fill the gap between the two figures, and

therefore brought this proposal to the congregation:

The Location Committee proposes that RAMF re-offer \$60,000 for the property at 111 Hillside Ave., and that RAMF release individuals to give beyond their pledges to close negotiation on this property above \$60,000.

Discussion points:

- Is it worthwhile to spend so much money when so little is known about final, total costs?
- A search via the Wall Street Journal showed that the property sold for \$50,000 in 1999.
- Since the lot is able to be divided into possibly as many as 11 single-home parcels, would our purchase and use of it-effectively consolidating it into a single plot forever-reduce its value? And if so, is that good stewardship?
- In any discussion of total cost, construction figures must remain vague estimates until the building site is chosen and design plans are finalized.
- Maintenance costs seem to be the hardest to get a handle on.
- Purchase of the land would use up just about all the cash we can raise at this time (the nearly \$30,000 in the Building Fund plus almost the same amount in loan pledges), requiring us to take out a mortgage for the building; however, that cash payment would represent a very substantial down payment.

The proposal was passed unaminously.

Peace symposium

We agreed to become off-campus sponsors.

Delegate for Atlanta 2003 Mennonite Church Assembly (Thom)

Victor Klassen is interested in being the RAMF delegate.

Small group reorganization (Thom)

One of the small groups is not ready to reorganize yet. Thom has attempted to talk to everyone else about their desire to be in a small group, and since some answers were ambiguous, he needs clarification from some people. He asked for help and Bob volunteered.

Covenant revision (Thom)

This revision of a recent reading version of the original 1970s covenant was accepted with the sole amendment of the excision of a sentence in the second paragraph. The amended covenant is attached.

Adjournment.