

**Irvine Congregational Church
Spring Congregational Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2013**

Moderator, Cindy O'Dell called the meeting to order at 12:15 PM. It was confirmed that we had a quorum present of 67 people. The moderator called for motions to amend the Agenda. Since there were none, Frank Larkin moved to approve the agenda and Lester Ricks seconded the motion. The congregation unanimously approved by voice vote. Senior Pastor, Paul Tellström gave the opening prayer.

Moderator, Cindy O'Dell announced that David Schofield was in attendance and would act as our parliamentarian for this meeting.

The Moderator called for a motion to approve the minutes from January 2013 Congregational meeting; Don Bjorklund moved to accept the minutes as written and Randy Garber seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as written by voice vote.

Worth Giller made a motion to accept the reports as written from the Ministries and Committees. Mark Fowler seconded the motion.

Announcements:

On June 2, we will have a Forum after second service to explore the best possible ways to use our three new positions that will replace our Assoc. Pastor position.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer, Greg Guth discussed the church's 2013 financial statements and reviewed his reports that are included in the packet. He explained that pledges are way behind at this time (\$24,209), as they were last year (\$7,425); however the church staff and Committee and Ministry chairs are keeping their expenses well under their budgets for the year so far.

Cindy O'Dell moved to accept the treasures report as written in our packet and Frank Larkin seconded the motion. It was passed with a voice vote.

Building Task Force Report:

Martha Selby reviewed our history and reminded us that last year the congregation approved up to \$50,000 to move forward with obtaining a Conditional Use Permit from the City of Irvine; so that we would know what modifications would be allowed. She reported that soon after our Congregational meeting last year, another congregation invited us to share space in their building. We explored that option and doing due diligence it took nearly 5 months of meetings and explorations before the invitation was declined. Martha reported that we now have a smaller building Task Force (BTF2).

In April, letters were mailed out to approximately 15 architectural firms and six firms have toured our church property and have submitted initial proposals. After a careful review of the proposals, the BTF2 will choose firms for a competitive Request for Proposal process. Frank asked, "When will the congregation get involved?" Martha explained that information would then be presented to the congregation for approval and direction; Martha explained that there would be many levels of details for the congregation to consider. She went on to remind us that no money has been spent at this time and asked that we review her report and letter that are included in the packet.

Martha asked for any questions: Shirley Lorenz asked if the building changes include Plumer Hall. It was explained that Plummer Hall will be replaced, but the Administrative building where the sanctuary is located will not be included in the changes. Alyssa Cornett, who works as an engineer asked about Title XXIV; Ralph Pagter asked that the new building be built with good acoustics. It was acknowledged that, yes, these issues will be addressed.

New Business:

Administrative Board Chair, Martha Selby made a motion to amend the budget to allow a 2% increase in salaries for our church staff, effective 7/01/13; and Lorraine Fox seconded the motion. Voice vote was taken to approve increases in salaries and it passed. Suellen asked if that would include childcare staff; Laura Long, who is our liaison with the childcare center, explained that they are not part of our church budget.

Election of New lay leadership positions:

Felicity Figueroa will be the new chair of Mission and Service with Bil Aulenbach as a support person, rather than as co-chair as in the packet. Bil prefers to concentrate on Global Missions. The position of Historian has been filled. Ernie Fowler made a motion to accept our slate of candidates as corrected. All new lay leaders were asked to stand. Bil Aulenbach made a motion to approve all candidates as corrected and Jenny Mirmak seconded the motion.

Motion to become a Global Mission Church:

Bil Aulenbach made a motion for our church to become a 'Global Mission Church'. Dave Smith seconded the motion. Cindy asked Bil to explain what it means to be a 'Global Mission Church'. Bil reminded the congregates that the "Passport to Global Ministries" that they received last week explains what it means and of course our church has been talking about it all year. He went on to say, "It is the church's job to help the poorest among us". Shirley asked, "How will this effect our budget?" He and Cindy both explained that it would *not cost* anything for our church to receive the added designation. Peggy Goetz explained that when she went to Africa, she paid for her own expenses, as do Ken and Randy when they make trips to Japan. If other funds are used, they come from Global Missions. Jerrod asked, "What is the attachment?" Bil reviewed some of the trips that IUCC has taken: Trips to Mexico to explore poverty, a Trip to Palestine and a Mission Trip to Guatemala to help build stoves.

Bil explained that it would not replace Stephen Ministry or internal missions. He explained that Ken and Randy would be returning to Japan to discuss the needs there. This will be our first partnership, they are not asking for money, but assistance, rather than us telling them what needs to be done, they will ask for help. Sandy Sudwicks asked, "Why do we need to vote on Global Missions rather than just doing it?" Bil explained that it would give us a new designation. Meredith Anderson asked, "Why won't it cost us any money?" Bil responded that many need a representative and services, money is just a part of it and the organization of Global Missions has a bank account. The main focus is to give advice; it can help us to understand what poverty is. Randy Romine explained that a lot of the money comes from voluntary contributions and "One Great Hour of Sharing". Linda Hidy stated that it is her understanding that if we send a representative, there will be funds available. Financial aide does not necessarily fall on the congregation. A voice vote was taken and it passed with only a few "no's".

Motion to adopt a Safe Church Policy:

Brian Percy made a motion for us to adopt a "Safe Church Policy" and Lindy Garber seconded it. Stephanie Sanders stated that this is completely proactive and in the spirit of 'Lets all communicate'. Brian Percy asked: "How do we get a safe church team?" Cindy explained that

the Administrative Board would select the team. Lorraine Fox mentioned that we did have a predator try to get involved with our Sunday School; Jan Osborne also shared that when she was at the Laguna church, they had a situation. She said, "We need to have regulations". Lavinia Cooper asked if there would be staff changes for this purpose and new regulation such as: always having two adults in a classroom and also more than one child. Ernie Fowler spoke up and stated that this is another step in the right direction. Stephanie explained that our policy is intentionally vague at this time until we can afford more staff.

Staffing Proposal:

Rev. Paul explained his new staffing proposal, which will replace the Assoc. Pastor position and Director of Adult Programs, with three part-time positions: A part-time (28 hours) Adult Education Ministry Director and a part-time (28 hours) Ministry for Young People Director as well as a part-time (8-10 hours) Sunday School Superintendent. We will have a staffing forum on June 2, for an open discussion regarding upcoming staffing options. This will give Rev Paul a chance to further explain his staffing vision and for the congregants to ask questions and give input.

State of the Church:

Rev. Paul Tellström recognized those members of the congregation who are stepping down from their positions. He thanked Cindy for doing such a good job of leading us through a number of unexpected decisions with great love and humor. All of the church staff was asked to stand and to be recognized. Paul ended by saying that "We need to welcome Young Families and Youth".

Adjournment

The Moderator called for a motion to adjourn. Dave Smith so moved and Howard Emery seconded. The motion to adjourn was adopted.

Rev. Paul Tellström gave the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Shaffstall
Clerk, Ministries Board