

Elder Council Meeting
June 3rd, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Members present: Randy Beach, Jon Knopp, Mike Evans. Elder Intern: Ross Phillips. Administrative Assistant: Bob Sievert.

Ross Phillips opened the meeting in prayer.

Philippians 3:1-11 Randy Beach led the discussion of Philippians 3:1-11. Bob Sievert will lead the Bible study at the June 17th Elder Council meeting, studying Philippians 3:12- 21.

The minutes from the June 3rd meeting were approved as submitted and will be posted on the FCC web site, www.Homeforever.org

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Doctrinal Statement and Constitution Revisions: The Elder Council studied a suggestion for revision for the doctrinal statement dealing with the “Word of God”. After considerable discussion it was decided to leave stand the existing wording which is as follows: “The Bible is God’s Word to us. The Holy Spirit of God directed human authors to write down just what He wanted. When the Bible was originally written, it was without error. The Bible is true and trustworthy, instructing us how to please God and find meaning and fulfillment.”

Several minor grammatical changes were made to the current Doctrinal Statement.

The elders discussed the first 13 articles of the Faith Community Church Constitution, with proposed recommendations for consideration submitted by Mike Evans. These changes revolve around the following:

- Replacing the concept of “membership” with that of “covenant relationship”
- Description of the “Management Team” members as being identified in the role of a deacon/deaconess
- The addition of the role of “Ministry Director(s)”

At the June 17th Elder Council meeting discussion will continue where it was left off, starting with Article 14. Mike Evans will make changes to reflect this evening’s discussion and consensus for consideration at an upcoming Elder Council meeting.

- B. Ingress and Egress to the Church Parking Lot: Bob Sievert, Steve Halleen, Aston Wood, and Scott Hawkins have met several times studying the issue of ingress and egress to the parking lot. As the church family grows in size it may be necessary to provide either a second driveway, or widening the existing driveway to handle the number of vehicles that are entering and departing the church parking lot. Bob, Steve, Aston, and Scott have considered options such as purchasing an easement to 140th Street, purchasing a lot with frontage on 140th Street, or creating safer ingress/egress on the existing property. The City of New Richmond and Richmond Township have been involved in the planning of the extension of Richmond Way from Wal-Mart to 140th Street, and the refurbishment of 140th Street between G and GG. Bob and his team are planning to meet with the Elder Council at the June 17th meeting to share their findings/recommendations with the elders.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Expectation That Those Individuals Dedicating Family Members and/or Being Baptized Should Become Members of the Local Church: As individuals dedicate family members to the Lord or become baptized, there is an understanding that this ceremony is being done in the context of the church families' participation and support. The elders endorsed the understanding that they would like to move forward with an expectation that those individuals who are dedicating family members or being baptized would become members of the local body. There will need to be additional instruction before the ceremony to give a Biblical understanding of the significance of the church's role in both baptism and dedications. The details of proceeding with this recommendation will need to be worked out sometime in the near future.
- B. Salary Study: With the economy going through a recession, and the Consumer Price Index being at a negative figure for the past twelve months, Bob recommended that there not be an across the board salary increase for the up-coming budget year. The elders will discuss possible increases for either a) exceptional merit, or b) to rectify salary inequities at the June 17th Elder Council meeting.
- C. Membership Interviews: Membership induction will occur at the June 21st Sunday morning services. The elders will begin interviewing potential membership candidates.
- D. Budget Update: Bob gave an update on the budget through May, 2009. The average giving per week for the past six months is as

follows: December \$16,776; January \$10,168; February \$12,179; March \$14,355; April \$16,069; May \$13,122. Expenses have continued to be well monitored and the cash flow for the year is at a positive \$27,000. The upcoming summer months typically negatively affect the average weekly giving as attendance is somewhat lower due to vacations and long weekends.

Bob gave the elders a copy of a budgeting instrument that will be used to formulate the new budget process; with the fiscal year starting on August 1st of 2009. The Elder Council expressed its desire that every effort be made to develop a new budget that is close in proximity to the budget figures used in the 2008-09 budget year, keeping in mind that ministry goals/AIMS and new ministries may necessitate specific budget line increases.

The Elder Council closed in conversational prayer for the needs of those in our church family.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Bob Sievert
Administrative Assistant to the Elder Council