

Minutes of the Union Church Finance Committee Meeting on November 25, 2008

In attendance: Michael Barrett, Sue Gawler, Tony Mastromarino (Chair), Rev. Bill Meyer (pastor), Frank Sterner, Dick Tripp, Kevin Wellenius, and Dave Williams.

Tony opened the meeting with a prayer.

The Minutes of the September 9, 2008 Finance Committee meeting were approved as distributed. The status of new financial software package , Quick Books, was discussed. It will be implemented effective January 1, 2009. A confidentiality issue, i.e., donor anonymity, was raised; Kevin will look into it.

Dick presented the Treasurer's Report through October 31, 2008. For the year to date, expenses are at 83.4% of budget and income is at 89.4% of budget. Nearly 99% of pledges for the year have been received and fund raisers have brought in 97% of their projections. Only Loose Offerings are significantly below projections at 64%. Expenses for the month exceeded income by \$716, but for the year, income exceeds expenses by \$7,951. The checkbook balance is \$13,423 and the loan balance is \$16,550. There was discussion regarding Office expenses under Operations and it was decided that copying costs should be reported on that line rather than attempting to distribute those costs to the program or activity that generates it. A new copying contract has been negotiated with Transco which will cost less and provide more copies.

Sue summarized the pledge totals received to date. A total of 45 pledges have been received, including 6 new pledges, but the total of \$67,304 is based on 43 pledges. Last year there were 56 pledges totaling \$77,670. Sue reported that the non-responders, that is, those who pledged last year but have not done so to date, pledged a total of \$24,874. As we have done in the past, we can assume that between 40% - 66% of those non-responders will pledge again. This translates to between \$10,000 and \$16,000 in additional pledges for 2009. For budget purposes, we agreed on using a figure of \$14,000 in additional pledges, bringing the total in pledges to \$81,304.

Sue will draft a correspondence to be mailed and to appear in the Newsletter addressing the issue of fewer pledges, a lower total, and a higher budget emphasizing how the funds are used for programs, new initiatives, and local mission and outreach.

Rev. Bill indicated that Sue has agreed to serve an additional year as Financial Secretary with the understanding that she will mentor her replacement mid-year. Sue is excited about integrating the financial data into the new software program.

Essentially the remainder of the meeting was spent deliberating the Ministry Needs Budget for 2009. The revised budget attached to these Minutes reflects the changes made to the expenses anticipated as well as the projected income. Although the entire budget can be considered and is a faith budget, that will be especially important this year as the projected \$10,000 shortfall in income over expenses necessitates a Faith Line item of the same amount in addition to the \$13,000 budgeted from fund raisers. Changes in the Expense categories can be summarized as follows:

Ministerial expenses were reduced by \$1000 to reflect a reduction in fuel oil prices.

Operational expenses were reduced by \$250 for Office supplies, etc because of the new copier contract and \$500 from the fuel oil costs for the church. The \$6,000 figure for Other/Miscellaneous expenses was broken down into Fund Raiser expenses (a new line) at \$1,500 with the remaining \$4,500 remaining as Other/Miscellaneous expenses which includes \$3,000 in gift compensation for the pastor.

Although Property expenses were not altered, there was discussion regarding the amount paid monthly toward our loan. It was agreed to leave it as is with the understanding that the Treasurer could recommend that the Church only pay the minimum required (approximately \$175 per month) should the budget warrant such action.

It was also noted that the local Missions and Outreach budget of \$9,000 is contingent on the Church making its projected budget.

The expenses projected for 2009 total \$140,973 which is an increase of \$13,858, or nearly 11%

In short, continued efforts to grow the church both in number and in a deeper and more active faith among its current members will result in realizing the 2009 Ministry Needs budget for Union Church. **Frank moved approval of the budget as revised and Michael seconded. The motion passed unanimously.** This will be the budget that will be presented to Ad Council in December for final ratification.

Tony indicated that Frank Rizzo and Tony Mastromarino will conduct the Church Audit for 2008.

The revised Endowment documents are available online at the Church's website: www.gbgm-umc.org/maine-belgradelakes/index.html. **Tony nominated Frank Sterner to represent the Finance Committee on the Endowment Advisory Committee. Michael seconded the motion which passed unanimously.** This action will be presented to the Charge Conference on December 15 for approval assuming the Endowment Program is adopted.

Rev. Bill noted that Tony has agreed to serve as Chair of the Finance Committee for another year with the understanding that he will mentor his successor mid-year.

Tony acknowledged Dick Tripp's commitment and service as Treasurer for the past 28 years. His presence will be missed at our bimonthly meetings.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be the third Tuesday of January, January 20, 2009 at 7:00 pm.

Rev. Bill closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Mastromarino, Chair, Finance Committee

UNION CHURCH: Draft of Proposed Ministry Needs Budget 2009

	2008		2009
	Budget	Accum	Proposed
INCOME	127,495	102,513.08	140,617.00
Pledges	77,670	71,511.50	81,304.00
Offerings	32,000	18,918.31	32,000.00
Sunday School	25	0.00	25.00
Facilities	600	360.00	600.00
Special Appeals	4,000	3,856.63	4,000.00
Fund Raisers	13,000	7,866.64	13,000.00
FaithLine			9,688.00
EXPENSES	127,115.42	93,846.19	140,617.00
MINISTERIAL	65,006.42	50,569.76	68,604.00
Compensation	35,180.00	26,384.99	36,850.00
Pension	8,314.42	6,237.00	8,446.00
Health Insurance	12,412.00	9,309.06	12,383.00
Electric	550.00	329.00	425.00
Phone	650.00	429.07	575.00
Fuel Oil	2,600.00	3,781.96	3,500.00
Service	250.00	353.64	450.00
Association Dues	350.00	375.00	375.00
Travel Reimbursement	3,200.00	2,552.50	3,700.00
Parsonage Maintenance	1,000.00	817.54	1,400.00
Continuing Education	500.00	0.00	500.00
MISSIONS	21,571.00	11,242.20	22,808.00
Disc. Missions/Outreach	9,000.00	1,813.98	9,000.00
Mission Shares	12,571.00	9,428.22	13,808.00
STAFF COMPENSATION	13,100.00	8,525.64	12,800.00
Pianist/Organists	7,200.00	4,680.00	7,200.00
Custodian	5,000.00	3,463.12	5,000.00
Payroll Taxes	900.00	382.52	600.00
PROGRAMS	4,100.00	1,532.47	4,400.00
Christian Education	2,500.00	553.05	2,500.00
Worship/Music	500.00	639.19	800.00
Stewardship	200.00	0.00	200.00
Evangelism	200.00	0.00	200.00
Program Development	300.00	32.65	300.00

Ad Council Retreat	400.00	307.58	400.00
OPERATIONS	12,205.00	14,287.56	18,305.00
Office P/P/S	2,000.00	1,504.32	2,000.00
Workers Compensation	375.00	268.11	360.00
Guest Minister	150.00	0.00	150.00
Fuel Oil	4,800.00	7,423.30	7,500.00
Electricity	800.00	639.94	825.00
Phone	750.00	568.72	760.00
Union Rider	500.00	166.00	200.00
Advertising	460.00	534.10	600.00
Hospitality	450.00	296.83	450.00
N.E. Conference	420.00	10.00	420.00
Fund Raisers			1500.00
Other/Miscellaneous	1,500.00	2,876.24	4,500.00
PROPERTY	11,133.00	7,688.56	13,700.00
Church Maintenance	2,000.00	2,326.67	4,250.00
Supplies	200.00	0.00	200.00
Loan P&I	4,980.00	3,735.00	4,980.00
Property & Liability Insur	2,523.00	0.00	2,470.00
Parsonage Taxes	1,430.00	1,626.89	1,800.00

revised
12/02/08