

First United Methodist Church  
Annual Charge Conference  
December 5, 2005

Pastor Kermit introduced Ray Baker, Sakakawea District Superintendent.

Devotions – Mr. Baker discussed the covenants of the United Methodist Church and its presence and importance to this meeting.

Call to Order: Ray Baker at 7:00 p.m.

Laity Reports: None verbally. Please see United Methodist Women's report for 2005.

Pastor Kermit's report: Pastor Kermit presented his report as written in the Charge Conference booklet.

Other Staff Reports:

Ministry of Worship and Prospective Member Care – see report in Charge Conference booklet. Ernie spoke of his commitment to the development of youth groups and service; and church services that are distinctive. He has formed a committee to develop strategies to take care of new prospective members. He is working on maximizing volunteer leaders. Ernie reported that 26 new members will have joined the church by the end of the year. He is working on information strategies to better communicate with our members. He also plans to work with those volunteering for Reception of Members and Visitors to create a greeting system that warmly welcomes all.

Youth Ministry – Please see Peter Jones' written report in the Charge Conference booklet.

Children's Ministry Goals and Highlights – see written report in Charge Conference booklet.

Special Askings – Pastor Kermit clarified that the Dakotas Missionaries section was meant to go specifically to Gordon Graner and the Eberles. This was approved by Mr. Baker and the report will reflect same.

2005 Budget – Bruce Walth reviewed giving that has occurred in the Church in 2005. He indicated that general fund giving is up \$21,513.55 as compared to the same time last year. This is an increase of approximately 6.1%. Other giving above and beyond that includes: (Land) debt retirement - \$22,669.

UMCOR (for worldwide disaster relief) - \$7,395.74

Pink envelope special projects - \$7300

Screen & Cross Project - \$11,016.08

Bolivia & Mission Trip - \$10,700

Ghana Students - \$8200

Christian Concerns - \$5,394.09  
Sunday School - \$1,647  
Kramer Family - \$2,762  
Camp Scholarships - \$1,149

Bruce also discussed the Stewardship Challenge – “Journey Toward Excellence”, and each member/family growing 1% towards tithing in the next year. (\$10 more per week per family would result in a total of \$160,000).

Pledge cards received thus far = \$262,505.56 or 54.24% of the 2006 budget.

The land debt retirement after the Dec. payment will be \$8,511.17.

The financial committee of the Ad Team is working on a system for automatic transfer of funds from individual's savings or checking accounts to the church offering to facilitate giving for those who wish to give in this manner. This may help keep the offering more consistent over the months (especially in summer), so we can meet the financial needs of the church. Vanco services is the company who will help us do this. Anyone interested in offering in this manner will need to fill out a form to do so. Two people are currently piloting this program to see how it will go, and thus far are quite satisfied. There will be a nominal service fee that the church will have to pay to maintain this service.

Bruce described large (unexpected) expenditures that occurred in 2005 that we have been able to cover with general funds so far, that were not budgeted for. For the most part, these are maintenance and repair items that have been needed for quite some time, but were previously put off because of the budget.

Examples include: Parsonage Air Conditioning - \$4,095.97

Berean Room Carpet - \$1,688

Commercial refrigerator and ice maker - \$3,340.40

Office thermostats - \$3,471

Furnace Repair - \$1,743

Fellowship hall lights - \$2,189.31

Organ repair - \$645

This lead in to discussion of the use of church equity (retained savings) if needed. In years past, if there was revenue left over expenses, the Ad Team would spend it (i.e. helping another church pay their apportionments, etc.). During some bad years, First Church elected to carry over some excess revenues. Current balance is \$40,542.03. If we end this year in the red (as of the end of November we are \$732 in the red), that difference will come out of equity. It is planned to never let equity drop below \$25,000. There are a number of things coming up in the 2006 budget that could affect equity

These include: Resurfacing of the west parking lot - \$4,500

Camera (that will allow more professional recording for the televised service - \$8,000 (and being requested by the T.V station  
Parsonage patio door & deck -\$2,500-with work done by members

Parsonage picture window (broken by the hail storm) - \$1,000  
over that allowed by insurance, in order to do it “right”

Church liability insurance – additional \$1,000 to cover directors  
and officers as well as employee severance

P.C. rotation - \$1,000/year (to rotate replacement of computers

every three years.

Software - \$1,000 (to gain more consistency among computers)

Bruce referred the members present to the job description for the Prospective Member Process Coordinator. He explained that the Ad Team believed we were not meeting the need to follow visitors and prospective new members with the staff that we had. Therefore, it was decided to add this half time position to Ernie's position. This, of course, increases his salary as well as benefits which will affect the 2006 budget.

Bill Strutz referred the group to items 6 a. through d. under budget in the Charge Conference booklet. The items entitled Housing Exclusion Resolution, Accountable Reimbursement Policy, and Clergy Compensation are 3 means of saving taxable income for the pastor, in areas where he is required to contribute some of his net income to the overall cost of housing and insurance. Kathy Roll moved and Warren DeKrey seconded that these three items be approved. Motion carried.

2006 Budget – (please see printed budget in the Charge Conference booklet)

Bruce explained that all staff will receive a 5% increase to begin 1-1-06, with the exception of Ernie, who will receive this beginning 7-1-06. The budget reflects that the pastor will share in the cost of his health insurance.

Pastor/Staff relations is 48% of the total budget.

Conference apportionments is 23% of the budget.

Trustee budget is basically for maintenance and repair and is 19% of the budget, having gone up \$9,080.

These first three items are a total of 90% of the overall budget.

Worship ministry is down.

Christian Education is up \$1,226 in order to improve some things for the children.

Mission and Outreach – is up \$100

Evangelism (Member communication) is decreased due to plans to get the news-letter to members by e-mail as much as possible.

Youth Ministry is the same as last year.

Finance/Stewardship is increased to cover any Vanco expense.

Treasurer's income is down slightly.

Church/Social program remains the same.

The total is a 14.5% increase over 2005's budget. Weekly amount needed is \$9,129.04. We may need to spend \$15,000 in equity if the monthly income does not meet the budgeted expense.

Bruce moved and Kathy Roll seconded that the budget be approved as presented. Discussion ensued. Motion carried.

First Church Trust Report – Mark Ouradnik referred the group to the written report in the Charge Conference booklet. Mark discussed when and what the trust fund was originally created for. He reported the current status of the account. Jeff Pospisil, church treasurer, indicated the “Vanco-matic” process can handle giving to this trust fund as well.

Leadership Election – Pastor Kermit presented information on the 4 nominees on the ballot for election the Administrative Team. The ballots were distributed. Bruce Walth and Diane Dyk agreed to continue to serve as delegates to the Annual Conference. Mark Ouradnik will continue as FUMC leader. Dave Nash moved a unanimous ballot. Bill Jundt seconded. Motion carried.

Membership Report – Pastor Kermit referred the group to the written report in the Charge Conference booklet. He presented that 9 people are up for deletion from First Church’s membership, due to non-participation in the last several years. This will reduce the total membership of 543 to 534 people (excluding any potential deaths between this date and the end of the year). Pastor Schott moved we take Adabell and Richard John off the deletion list and put them on the shut-in list. The The amended motion to delete the remaining seven people carried.

Vision Team – Dave Nash reported that a couple of years ago it was decided to pursue the exploration of a dual campus for First Church. He explained that there is little to no interest based on surveys sent out last year. There has also been input from the New Church Development members of the Annual Conference who recommend we re-think this option. Therefore, the Vision Team requests that Charge Conference rescind the previous decision. Lori Wavrin moved Charge Conference rescind the dual campus exploration. Diane Schneider seconded. Motion carried.

Dave requested that we have more participation from church members on this committee. The vision isn’t necessarily just for a new church, but to continue to minister to the community in a Christian fashion i.e. ministering to shut-ins in helping ways such as fixing windows, leaky pipes, etc.

Pastors in Retired Relationships – Pastor Schott referred the group to the written report in the Charge Conference booklet. Pastor Schott is very excited about what First Church is doing and where its going. He spoke very uplifting and motivational Words

Ray Baker requested and received an “Aye” from those present for recertification of lay speaker, Kevin Sailer.

Mr. Baker requested and received an “Amen” from those present for recertification of Candidates for Ordained Ministry (Brandon Vetter).

Mr. Baker requested and received acceptance of all items as presented in the Charge Conference booklet.

Pastor Kermit offered the closing prayer.

Adjourned: 9:17 p.m.

