

Report from the Board of Trustees Meeting of January 9, 2010

The most significant and challenging issue on the agenda of this special four-hour board meeting was the discussion and acceptance of the 2010 Budget. It was extraordinarily difficult to adopt a budget with such modest revenue projections and thus with necessary reductions in staff hours and salaries/benefits.

The budget was painfully and reluctantly adopted; and the board established a working group to look into how this church could increase its revenue for the 2010 year. The board is eager for congregational creativity during these harsh financial times.

Because of the guidance that the board received at the Policy Governance Training during the November Leadership Development weekend, the board is developing an annual Calendar of Responsibilities and Agenda Items, which we began to establish at this meeting.

During the January 26 board meeting, the board will begin to discuss the Annual Priorities for 2010. In the past these priorities were set by the board for the church as a whole. We are now changing that to establish priorities that will guide the board in its own work only.

In Policy Based Governance, one of the central responsibilities of the board is to monitor our “ends”, which is “Policy Speak” for our stated aspirations and goals. This means that the congregation is invited into reflection about “how we are doing” on a variety of issues. The board is developing a schedule that will include a variety of such reflection processes such as electronic and written surveys, circle discussions, etc. A working group was created to begin the specific design of our ongoing monitoring process.

One of the highest values that this congregation holds is how we all treat each other while doing our “church work”. To this end, some months ago the Journey Towards Wholeness Team trained the board in what is called Process Observations. This is a process that is now an integral part of each board meeting; and it proves to be a continuing learning opportunity for all of us.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 26, 7:30-9:30pm in the Starr King Room. The agenda will be posted on the bulletin board near the foot of the stairs. Board meetings are open to the congregation; and you are most welcome to come and observe your board in action.

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