

First United Methodist Church
Special Church Conference Minutes
November 17, 2009
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A special Church Conference was held on Tuesday, November 17, 2009, at 6:45 p.m. in the sanctuary at First United Methodist Church, Marshalltown, IA.

The following members were in attendance: Dr. Rev. Wesley S.K. Daniel, Rev. Dale Batcheler, Rev. Alexis Williams, Jenny Ahlemeyer, Meredith Bell, Karen Berger, Allen Brennecke, Ron Crosser, Greg DeSaulniers, Ruth Jackson, Betty Kunc, Elizabeth Flickinger, Marki McKibben, Jane Markey, Barb Matya, Kevin Miller, Meredith Miller, Pete Mink, Jim Moore, Dawn Muller, Jon Muller, Max Patterson, Sandra Patterson, Ivadeen Proffitt, Bev Sloppy, Lyle Springer, Cheryl Strunk, Pam Vinson, Judy Westphal.

Rev. Dale Batcheler welcomed everyone and introduced District Superintendent Dr. Rev. Wesley S.K. Daniel. Dr. Rev. Daniel welcomed everyone and opened with a prayer.

Dr. Rev. Daniel's objective for the special church conference was to discuss and possibly reconsider the decision made on August 9, 2009, regarding the use of the funds from the proceeds of the sale of Grace United Methodist Church. If a motion would be made and seconded, then a discussion and vote will follow on this previously approved motion.

Kevin Miller moved to reopen for discussion and possible reconsideration of the motion voted upon at the last charge conference on August 9, 2009. Pete Mink seconded. A brief discussion followed. Motion carried unanimously.

The motion at the August 9, 2009, church conference was: "the proceeds for that purpose" (to repair the three large circular stain glass windows in the sanctuary). The motion was amended : "to use part of the proceeds from the sale to purchase a new vehicle for the church". The vote to use \$113,750 for window repair and \$30,000 for a new vehicle carried with 41 favorable and 23 unfavorable votes.

Dr. Rev. Daniel then read his position paper which outlined his visit with the Bishop, Cabinet, conference treasurer and what he found when he consulted the Book of Discipline to further clarify whether the purchase of a vehicle would be considered a "capital improvement" or "current operating expense". His research led him to the conclusion that the purchasing of a vehicle has not typically been considered as "capital investment". Due to this conclusion and the current financial health and climate of the congregation plus existing capital investment debt, Dr. Rev. Daniel sensed that under these critical circumstances, the capital investment toward the renovation of stained glass windows should receive a higher priority and greater urgency in the designation of the principal proceeds from the sale of Grace United Methodist Church. Dr. Rev. Daniel believes the congregation's current context and situation warrants the need for immediate and prompt attention and the allocation resources to be set aside to pay off capital improvement debts.

Jon Muller moved to retract his amendment to the motion at the August 9, 2009, church conference and take the \$30,000 and put it back in to the window restoration. Max Patterson seconded. A discussion followed. Jon Muller would like to see a vehicle purchased as soon as possible for the youth and church people to make the church a vibrant and growing community. He further explained that vans were

had decided prior to the August 9, 2009, church conference to repair the windows rather than buy a vehicle. Vehicles could be rented cheaper than purchasing them. Karen Berger stated that the proceeds of the sale of Grace Campus would be better spent to repair stain glass windows rather than paying down the present debt. If you borrowed money for the stain glass window project later on, the interest rate would be so much greater than the one already in place for the debt reduction project at hand. Dawn Muller reported that as of today the debt is down to \$86,000. Dawn Muller also stated that the monies obtained from the Grace Campus purchase has been placed in Time Certificates that will not come due for a few months. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

A discussion followed on how to proceed with the stain glass window project. Bids will be let and the Trustees will work with what bids are given. Another idea was put forth that wedding parties need to be informed that the sanctuary will be undergoing a major repair to the stain glass windows.

Rev. Batcheler closed with a prayer at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marki McKibben, Ad Board Recording Secretary