

Vicksburg United Methodist Church  
**Finance Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting held on Thursday, April 16, 2009 at 7:00pm**

**Committee Members Present:** Buff Coe, JoDee Nelson, Sue Epley, Betty Gruber, Betty Thomas, Trish VanTichelt, Rachel Freeman, Fred Nelson, Bob Harper

**Committee Members Absent:** Norm Kohler, John Cleveland

- **Pastor Buff Coe Opened with Prayer**
- **Minutes of March 2009 Meeting**
  - ♦ MOTION: by Betty Gruber to approve minutes
    - Rachel Freeman 2nds
    - ALL IN FAVOR
- **Treasurer's Report**
  - ♦ Our year-to-date income is about \$2000 more than last years!
  - ♦ ONE ministry share for 2009 has been paid
  - ♦ March closed ahead on the books, however around \$9000 went out to payables in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of April (which had no income)
  - ♦ Flowers Account was over budget, but now is back in the "black" due to income from Easter flowers
  - ♦ We are current on snow plow bills
    - Have not received a bill for February's plowing, however
  - ♦ Parsonage 2 – Gas, Electric and sewer bills are now being taken care of by Stamm's.
  - ♦ MOTION: by Sue Epley to approve treasurer's report
    - Rachel Freeman 2nds
    - ALL IN FAVOR
- **Old Business**
  - ♦ *Review of Financial Policies/Procedures*
    - Everyone's looked over what Tricia typed up
    - MOTION: by Rachel Freeman to approve and put into use Financial Policies/Procedures
    - Betty Gruber 2nds
    - ALL IN FAVOR
  - ♦ *Rental policy for use of the building*
    - Trustees are still working in the numbers
  - ♦ *College & Camp Scholarships*
    - Funds for scholarships come from our endowments and must be approved through Wills & Trusts
    - Wills & Trusts waiting as long as they can to meet in order for the funds to hopefully grow their interest
      - They will need to meet in May
    - 1 member needs to be on the scholarship committee
      - JoDee Nelson will attend, when meeting date is set
      - Sue Epley will be alternate
    - Trish noted that she received a significant donation from a visitor to go towards camps/scholarships & there are a little funds leftover that were not used for camp scholarships
      - So, we do have on hand around \$500 to use for camp scholarships.

- Trish passed info on to Wills & Trusts
- ♦ *Any Past Due Bills?*
  - As covered in treasurer's report, all current!
- ♦ *Newsletter on the website. Is that working?*
  - Only about 10 people have signed up to receive online newsletter.
  - Last month we just made out a call for people to call the office if they want to receive electronically
  - This month, Trish will send Kirsten a link and have her send the link to the newsletter to the complete email list and ask people to respond if they would like to continue receiving it that way. Meanwhile, we will still mail out newsletter.
  - Buff noted online version is in complete color! Much more appealing to the eyes.
- **New Business**
  - ♦ *Fire alarm when electric goes out needs to be fixed*
    - Liability issue... needed!
    - Could cost around \$1500
    - MOTION: by JoDee Nelson to use our Capital Investment Account (for use in long-term building expenses) to pay for the repairs needed to fix the system
    - Sue Epley 2nds
    - ALL IN FAVOR
- **Next Meeting**
  - *Thursday, May 21, 2009*
- **Open Forum**
  - ♦ Per Betty, have there been any announcements made about the box for publication costs
    - Announcements have been posted in newsletter and bulletins
    - Buff will point out during worship services
  - ♦ Per Trish, Yellowbook advertising cost currently is around \$58/month. Next year's contract, it has been cut in half.
    - Yellowbook is also giving the option to save 5% by paying it in one lump instead of monthly payments. We would be saving about \$20 in the long-run
    - Committee in agreement for Trish to just continue paying contract monthly
  - ♦ Will insurance cover the electrical lightning failures.
    - There is a \$500 deductible, but insurance should cover everything else.
    - Damage: Bell tower, Lost internet, computers in sanctuary, Organ
  - ♦ Stewardship met last night...
    - Down to around \$24000 in Bldg Fund... concerned!
    - Stewardship decided that Steve will make announcement in services and put an article in our next newsletter outlining "problem"
    - Ice Cream Social will go towards Bldg Fund
    - Trish's fundraising idea:
      - 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of new section next year. Play off of that
      - Congregation could purchase ceramic tiles in their name or in honor of someone and we can paint a mosaic to decorate an empty wall in the building
      - There are other things of this sort we could do also... bricks, benches, etc.
    - Stewardship is also concerned about offerings holding up through the summer.
      - Should we consider doing a short-term loan from endowment?
  - ♦ We need to start thinking about our GF finance campaign for the fall

- Stewardship felt we need to broaden the base of our supports instead of working on increase each supporters giving
  - Pastor Buff suggests a “Home meeting” type campaign
    - Find people who are willing to host a desert party where someone comes to give a presentation, share info and pass out pledges/etc.
  - ♦ Some churches utilize their Youth – who work to raise funds to pay ministry shares
    - Should we see if there is any interest from the Youth in doing so?
  - ♦ Matt Fulton suggested we should have 2 people bring the offerings to the safe after each service.
    - We do have a system in place and each assigned person taking the offerings to the safe should look for someone else on the list.
      - Trish will re-evaluate schedule and notify each volunteer
- **Fred Nelson Closed in Prayer**