



Unity Renaissance 2014 Annual Meeting & Board Elections January 26, 2014

Opening Prayer- Sam Akompong

Call to Order- Ed Rosquist

Introduction of Board of Trustees

Cordy Mack-Check to see that everyone has voted so nominating council can leave to do the count.

Presidents Report- Ed Rosquist

- Review of the last year, has been an awesome year. We had no minister to start, was a year of incredible transition. Am looking forward to the New Year.
- Business of UR- has been challenge for the Board. The Board is responsible for the business aspect of UR and the spiritual programing as well. We will go over the financial report in a few minutes. Overall this has been a good year because of dedicated staff members, the Board and the congregation. Some churches go through significant challenges when without a minister; that has not been the case at UR.
- We have been a tithing church and have contributed to the unity movement and to our community and out to the world. You can see in your brochure the list of who we have tithed to during the year and the amount tithed.
- Want to have a little discussion about our budget for next year. There will be a challenge as we march forward into our next year but is definitely something we think we can do. We have included a significant increase in our 2014 budget from the 2013 budget.
- It is not just about money but how we grow forward, it is also about the people who come through our doors and the spiritual nourishment we offer. We want to keep the lights on and the doors open. The lack of mortgage is a nice thing but the mortgage was less than 15% of our expenses. We still have to meet the other 85% of our expenses. Forty six percent of those expenses go toward salaries. The remainder goes for lights, heat, repairs, etc.
- The 2014 budget includes paying back some of our rainy day fund, we were behind this past year by a little over \$3,000. We feel that this year will be a good one for us to start replenishing our rainy day fund. Our expense categories are broken down into: operating funds (day to day operations), money market account (rainy day fund and accessible monies), long term investments (stocks,

bonds, and mutual funds), and fixed assets (facility and property). You will see the overall budget amount of around \$324,000. Requires about \$6200 per week. That is based on about 170 congregants tithing each week with an average tithe of \$37.00. Just wanted to give you an idea of what it takes to keep the lights on and pay our bills. Would like you to look at ways you can support the church. It also takes a lot of volunteerism to help out with Adult Ed, Youth Ed and putting together the Sunday Celebration Service. We are very encouraged from the Board perspective with the growing numbers of new faces and the number of seats being filled. Let's save questions for the end of the meeting.

Financial Report- Heidi and John

Heidi- thanks to everyone for being here. Your presence shows investment in our church family and we are all in this together. Ed reviewed most of the numbers in the budget. You can all see what we spent in 2013. Look at salaries and compensation. Remember we went 8 months without a minister's salary. We had guest speakers and ministerial candidates and moving expenses during the last budget year. Paula's energy is wonderful to move us forward. Some budget decisions for next years budget reflects our future plans building on Paula's energy and we are looking into technology, audio and visual live streaming. The amount that is different between the two budget years is not a big jump when you consider the growing number of visitors and the rising energy level. We have a wonderful year ahead of us. We will have questions at the end. John and I will be available after the meeting if you have additional questions. We are working on transparency and clear communication-look at the Board bulletin board, the 2014 budget posted there and our end of year operating expenses are there as well.

Minister's Report-

- Hard to believe I have only been here 5 months, I am so grateful to be here. The three words to describe these 4 months-Gratitude, Love and Learning. There has been a steep learning curve. I want to thank Donna and Scotty and all the volunteers who are helping me to get acclimated.
- I feel so fortunate to be here. I do not take it for granted one bit.
- My priorities so far have been the music program, getting the service aligned to where we want it, building youth education program and increasing community involvement.
- Getting to know everyone through -15 minute meet ups and meet the minister dinners. These have been joyful. These are still occurring if anyone is interested.
- January- I am excited about: Entering into strategic planning updating our vision for where we are going as a spiritual community.
- The vision for church is huge:
 - for the facility
 - more diversity
 - More small group ministries-ways to get to know each other end of February starting spiritual discovery groups.
 - Continue working with youth and family steering team.
 - Create more variety of ways that people can experience God.
 - Creating chapel/sacred space available.
 - Maybe down the road a Garden.
 - Maybe more music or more activities available during the week.

- More than anything I want this to continue to be the warm welcoming and inclusive place that UR is. I see more people discovering and experiencing what we have here. It is all about us showing and sharing our light.
- I am so grateful for you all.

Side light-Ed

Of Board nominees: Cory Fleet here today, Christopher Naughton is down with the flu and Valerie Winters is also out sick

We will go to questions until the votes have been counted, we also will need to elect three people to be the nominating council going forward for next year.

Questions & Answers:

Faye-why have music expense gone down?

Heidi-look at budget- for music, \$3400 is just for guest musicians and piano tuning, does not include salaries

John Root-purchasing music is a huge expense

John Root- remember that the budget is only a guideline (starting point). We can raise the amount for different categories, we increased the salary side, and people wanted Richard Mekdeci to be on music team.

Cyndi Root-I am concerned because this budget requires \$6000 each Sunday, a church is a business, how are we going to make this budget, what was our average for Sundays so far?

Ed- The average now is around \$5100 a week-there is some challenge around this, the \$33,000 we want to get back into our rainy day fund is included in the need for \$6200 a week. Our attendance has gone from to....I think we are seeing #'s where we will need an early service. Remember that not everyone who attends each week is a tither. We must invest to reap benefits down the pike. We do not want to overextend ourselves. We have not asked congregants for commitments for contributions for the year. The music team has had to tighten their belt this year.

Jan-Some of us work, I get off around 5:00. When you start meetings at 6:00 I cannot go home to eat. We used to have meetings at 7:00. Please think about this. I have concerns about the hall wall. We used to have clipboards laying out in the narthex. People would talk about what was coming up. I never go to the hall wall. If we could just on Sunday lay the clipboards out in narthex so people can be more aware of what is coming up.

Email is not the way to communicate announcements. I do not regularly check my email.

Bob-Question about building and grounds, it looks like we set aside about \$6000. How are we planning for upkeep?

John Root-

Bob-Are we setting aside money? We have some major expenses coming up, where are our plans for this? How are we funding this? This should really be a line item, we need to address this.

Heidi-we have had multiple discussions regarding the needs of the building and what are the most financially responsible ways to fund our upcoming big projects. What do we do? The answers are still up in the air. The roof and HVAC system are upcoming needs. We are working to replenish our reserves. That is money we can tap into if we decide that is the way to go. Past boards have put funds away for future projects.

This is a pertinent discussion (along with music). It is important that we be involved and invested in all of this. People are welcome to come to finance committee and to board meetings.

Andrea- speaking for brand new member. Membership-set out some doable

The membership process could be strengthened. I heard from no one. I joined in of my own volition. We should befriend people sooner. It is important to get people in, but more important to get them to stay.

Helen-Thanks the Board for all you are doing. The music team gives us so much edification. We need a lot of things, but I hope the Board will keep in mind our music team and try to increase salaries if they indeed were cut back this past year.

Ed-any other questions?

Question- Is there a fund for the music department?

Ed- there is.

Michele P. - I was not aware of when meetings occur and that we are welcome to attend. When do they meet? How do we know? I hear about things later sometimes.

Ed-meetings are posted on the calendar and listed in the Sunday bulletin. Rev. Paula brings fresh eyes to all of this. Some people want announcements on the website, some want personal announcements. We are looking at our website and trying to make it work better. If anyone is interested in coming to Board meeting, we ask that you let us know.

Paula- about welcoming new people, when a new person fills out a form, I write a personal note to help them feel welcome. It is important that you all welcome them too. If you are sitting near a visitor, bring them to me and introduce them to me or a Board member to welcome them. How do we continue to welcome them back and encourage them to volunteer and get involved?

Deb A.-if you notice someone new, introduce yourself and introduce the new person to one person you know.

Corey-It does not seem that we have money set aside for areas we want to grow in.

Ed-some is in here

Ed-We will close out questions.

Jane-Welcome to the south, you said “ya’all” twice.

Eddie-I have two points. The 25% increase in budget –what is that for?

Ease of the sign ups-a new person cannot ask a questions to the hall wall. Love idea of point of contact in narthex. Please keep in mind the fellowship aspect of our facility- the narthex is chaotic after the service and can be intimidating. I have seen new people in the bookstore and introduced myself and welcomed them.

Ed- questions and answers are complete. Cordy and Marsha-do you have our results?

Cordy- Thank everybody for voting and the candidates for stepping forth.

Thank Elarie for sharing her experience, and Charity for being an alternate and thanks to Donna for her help. The new members of the 2014 board are Ed and Christopher.

Nominate and Elect Nominations Council

Ed- we need to elect our nominations council for next year-Cordy-tell us want you do on the nom council. Cordy deferred to Marsha.

-Marsha- nothing much happens until August when we start getting paperwork together .Things “rev” up in December. Must make sure each person is qualified to run for Board. Put information about candidates in narthex and organize two meet and greets in January prior to the Annual Meeting. It is really simple once you are organized, it is just a matter of following the time line.

Ed-solicited potential candidates

Michele-what pos will be open?

Ed- Every year there are 2 positions that open up on the Board. If someone drops out the Board finds someone to complete that year (from the congregation); then there would be three elected (one filling in the year(s) left in that person's three year term).

Nominations for the Nominating Council- Cyndi Root, Victoria and Corey.

- The nominees leave room we will vote. The two with the most votes are the council, the third person is an alternate. Cordy and Marsha are the counters for the votes for nominating council. Everybody gets two votes.
- Victoria and Cyndi Root are elected to the nominating council, Corey Fleet is the alternate.
- Ed-thanks for everyone's involvement and thanks to Marsha and Cordy for making the board election such a smooth process.

Donna-we have a "lost and found" with many items. We have found a set of car keys.

Ending prayer-Ann DeMichael

Meeting adjournment- Ed Rosquist