

BONHOMME PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
14820 Conway Rd., Chesterfield, MO
Called Meeting of the Congregation
July 22, 2007

Moderator: Dr. Tom Pfizenmaier
Secretary: Jane Kostelc

Place: Church Sanctuary
Time: 9:35 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by the Moderator with prayer. Jane Kostelc was designated Secretary for the meeting. The meeting was held in two parts with second part beginning at 12:15 p.m. After the call to order, the start of the meeting was delayed to allow members of the congregation worshipping at the contemporary service to attend.

STATEMENT OF QUORUM

The Secretary declared that a quorum was present at the first part of the meeting (162).

CALLED BUSINESS

The purposes of the called meeting was 1) to dissolve the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Dr. Barry Gaeddert and the congregation, and 2) to dissolve the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Arthur Wolverton and the congregation.

First Session

Motions: Elder Jerry Wilson, chair of the Administration and Personnel Commission presented the following motions, which carried their own seconds.

1) Effective August 1, 2007 the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Dr. Barry Gaeddert and the congregation of Bonhomme Presbyterian Church be dissolved. Motion was approved by voice vote.

2) Effective August 1, 2007 the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Arthur Wolverton and the congregation be dissolved. Motion was opened to discussion.

Discussion:

Harry Haury called a point of order regarding the split sessions of the congregation meeting. Discussion presented at one session is not available to those at the other session. Mr. Haury presented that this practice was not according to Robert's Rules of Order. The Moderator presented that this had long been the practice at Bonhomme and continued discussion.

Harry Haury asked for clarification regarding the severance package offered in the agreement with Art Wolverton. Jerry Wilson responded that severance would include base salary and benefits for 3 months, ending on October 31, 2007.

Charles Nance spoke against the motion. He presented that the process of arriving at this motion was out of order. He outlined the steps and that had been taken in the process of reconfiguring the staff, the dates those steps were taken, and the involvement of committees, the congregation, or presbytery staff and committees as he understood the process. Mr. Nance felt communication with the congregation had been fuzzy, and no satisfactory explanation had been given to inquiries.

Jerry Wilson spoke to the process. The steps involved were taken with the full knowledge and assistance of the staff and Committee on Ministry of Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery. He called on the Rev. Dr. Paul Reiter, Executive Presbyter of Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery to speak to the process.

Dr. Reiter stated that due process had been followed in negotiating the dissolution of the pastoral relationship in question. He reminded the congregation that a pastoral relationship is a three-way relationship between a congregation, a pastor, and the presbytery. Presbytery staff and committees are often called to give advice to congregations and pastors. The presbytery has been assisting Art in finding another position. Dr. Reiter presented that the process was followed with all due diligence by the presbytery and the session and staff of Bonhomme.

Other members of the congregation also spoke to the motion.

Roger Hardy proposed that the vote on the motion be held by secret ballot. The Moderator accepted the suggestion.

Motion: Harry Haury moved and it was seconded to amend the motion on the floor to extend the severance agreement to 12 months of salary and benefits. Dr. Reiter stated that changes in the severance agreement would need to be reviewed by presbytery. After discussion, motion was accepted (114 in favor, 45 opposed). While the amendment was passed, the original motion was not voted upon. Thus, this action is not binding. However, it does provide a sense of the desires of the congregation.

Motion: Harry Haury moved and it was seconded to postpone the vote on the amended motion until a future meeting of the congregation to be set by the session so that members attending both worship times could meet together. Motion was accepted (78 in favor, 70 opposed). The Moderator declared the meeting postponed, but indicated that the second segment of this congregational meeting would be held in order to 1) complete the dissolution of the call for Rev. Dr. Barry Gaeddert, and 2) inform the congregation of the postponement of the action regarding dissolution of the call for Rev. Woolverton. The Moderator

recessed the meeting, with prayer, at 10:50 a.m. until after the completion of the 11:00 a.m. worship services.

Second Session

The Moderator reconvened the meeting at 12:15 with prayer. The Rev. Susan Niesen, Associate Executive Presbyterian, represented the presbytery at the second session.

Motion: Elder Jerry Wilson, chair of the Administration and Personnel Commission restated the following motion which had been introduced during the first segment of the meeting.

Effective August 1, 2007 the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Dr. Barry Gaeddert and the congregation of Bonhomme Presbyterian Church be dissolved. Motion was approved by voice vote.

The Moderator presented the decision to postpone consideration of the second order of business, that of the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Arthur Wolverton and the congregation of Bonhomme Presbyterian Church, until a time when the congregation can meet as one body. The session will determine a date and time and call the congregational meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned on motion at 12:30 p.m. and closed with prayer.

Approved by the Session: _____

Dr. Tom Pfizenmaier, Moderator

Jane Kostelc, Secretary

End of July 22, 2007 minutes