Christ Bennettsville Property Documents

Christ United Methodist Church Bennettsville

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REPORT OF
SANCTUARY PLANNING COMMITTEE
to
Administrative Council, Christ United Methodist Church
April 8, 1985

Committee Members:
Mildred Perkins, Chairman
Pat Altman
Johnny Driggers
Mamie Flowers
Susan Frost, Recorder
Ann Griggs
Reuben Haithcock
Jim Hutchins
Bea Miller
Jerry Newton
Hazel Riddle
Reggie Rowell, Pastor

The purpose of the Sanctuary Planning Committee was to determine if adequate support existed among church members for construction of a sanctuary.

The first Committee meeting was held January 24, 1985 with subsequent meetings on February 28, March 10 and March 17.

In order to evaluate the level of support, the Committee conducted a written survey of all members and regular church attendees. A copy of the survey results is attached. The Committee further considered the church's programs, needs and activities as described in the Decade of Discipleship vision statements and in the annual goals for 1984 and 1985.

Based on data compiled from the survey, a review of the written goals/vision statements and in light of the committee's discussion of needs, the following recommendations are made:

Priority I. Permanent Sanctuary with seating capacity of 200, which includes-
A. Choir room
B. Pastor's Study
C. Church office
D. Restroom for church office/Pastor's study
E. Zoned heating
F. Covered entrance for pick-up and drop-off
G. Barrier-free entrance
H. Cloak room

Priority II. Kitchen area remodeled to improve traffic flow

Priority III. Improved parking with handicapped area

Priority IV. Recreational area (e.g. basketball, volleyball courts)
1. Sex: Male 31/3% Female 56/1% No answer 1/17. \[\Rightarrow 82/40.8%\]

2. Of which age group do you consider yourself a member?
   - Youth 31/4%
   - Early Adult 28/34%
   - Middle Adult 28/34%
   - Later Adult 31/28%

3. Are you married? Yes 50/6%
   - No 31/38%
   - N/A 1/17

4. Are you a member of Christ UMC? Yes 75/96%
   - No 27/1%
   - N/A 2%

5. How long have you been a member or attended Christ UMC?
   - Less than 3 years 1/15%
   - 4-10 years 29/35%
   - 11 years or more 39/43%
   - N/A 2/14

6. How often do you attend:
   - Every week 32
   - 2-3 times a month 32
   - 1 month 5
   - Seldom 1
   - Never 3

   a) Sunday School
   - 32
   - 32
   - 5
   - 1
   - 3

   b) Sunday morning worship
   - 32
   - 5
   - 1
   - 2

   c) UMYF
   - 2
   - 1
   - 1

   d) Other (circles, men's club, stake meetings, etc.)
   - 15
   - 9
   - 12
   - 6
   - 28

7. Do you have children under 20 attending Christ UMC? Yes 31/37%
   - No 60/13%

8. Do you hold a formal position in the church? (teacher, officer, committee member, youth counselor, etc.) Yes 4/66%
   - No 41/1%
   - N/A 3

9. Do you agree that Christ UMC needs a permanent sanctuary used only for worship; weddings, funerals? Yes 7/16%
   - No 9/11%
   - N/A 2/17

10. Do you think Christ UMC should:
    a) build new, separate sanctuary building? Yes 48/59%
        - No 22/27%
        - N/A 11/13%
    b) remodel & expand existing sanctuary and build new building with kitchen for fellowship & recreation? Yes 31/33%
        - No 12/15%
        - N/A 40/44%
    c) other: 7/9%

11. Christ UMC needs a sanctuary that seats the following number of people:
    - 175 6/17%
    - 200 14/11%
    - 225 22/15%
    - 250 34/12%
    - Other 5/8%
    - N/A 8/10%

12. Are you willing to support a building project financially, above and beyond your giving to normal operating budget? Yes 5/16%
    - No 6/20%
    - N/A 11/14%

13. Should Christ UMC borrow the necessary funds to build/remodel a sanctuary? Yes 35/1%
    - No 27/5%
    - N/A 6/15%

14. If yes to #12, how much? (be specific) __/wk __/mon __/quarter __/year

15. If Christ UMC commits to a major building/remodeling project, will you support it not only with your money, but with your prayers and presence and positive attitude?
    - Yes 74/96%
    - No 2/12%
    - N/A 4

16. Please make any additional comments on the other side. You do not have to sign this sheet or identify yourself in any way unless you so choose.
Vision Statement of Christ UMC:

That Christ UMC lead people to Christ by sharing his love for us with them, especially those in need, and by serving them freely in Christ's spirit of love, forgiveness, acceptance, care and support.

Objectives:

1) To encourage each other to make Christ Lord of our lives, rather than ourselves lords of our own lives;
2) To witness by word and deed of God's love to all people;
3) To intensify the personal stewardship (money, time, prayers, talents) of our members;
4) To identify and minister to persons in need of special pastoral care.

Goals:

1) To increase personal giving and the number of people who tithe by having the finance committee develop and carry out a comprehensive stewardship program;
2) To increase the number of people involved with the Spring BBQ and the Fall Bazaar fund raising projects for the building fund;
3) To invite at least one person per month to church who doesn't regularly attend in order to increase our average weekly attendance at worship from 88 to 100 and to recruit 25 new members by the end of the year;
4) To adopt by April 8 a church-wide service project for 1985 to meet a specific need for the disadvantaged outside of our church;
5) To begin a systematic visitation program to shut-ins and inactive members to be developed by the Commission on Nurture and Membership Care and to be implemented through the stakes;
6) To continue to support outside service agencies (e.g. Food Pantry, Mothers Morning Out, Emergency Foster Care Program, etc...) through gifts of time, materials, space, and money;
7) To keep the stake shepherds informed of persons in need (in the hospital, sick at home, personal crisis, or any kind of special need) so that they can notify the pastor, other stake shepherds or the appropriate committee;
8) To post names and addresses of shut-ins on the church bulletin board in order to encourage members to write, phone, visit and remember them in prayer;
9) To initiate through the Education Commission specific programs to meet the needs of our senior high youth and young adults (18-24);
10) To review our goals at the July meeting of the Administrative Council and develop specific strategies for any goals that are not being reached;
11) To promote a positive attitude among our members through prayer and by our personal example;
12) To involve more lay people to assist in conducting worship services through reading of scripture, leading prayers, assisting during communion, and participating in other appropriate ways.
THE DECADE OF DISCIPLESHIP

During the weekend of October 16 and 17, 1982 the members of Christ Church went to Camp Pee Dee to formulate a vision for the next ten years. The vision would serve to define our purpose as a church as well as direct our ministry during the next decade. The two charts at the right contain that vision and the timeline upon which it will be put into effect.

From 1982 until 1991 each year has a special emphasis that will get the church's attention that year. At the same time the church will be preparing for the years that lie ahead and continuing the trends of the past years. The smaller chart shows just how the different emphases will overlap.

The Decade begins with the formulating of the vision in 1982. This is already past. We then move into 1983, The Year of the Body. During this year we will emphasize strengthening ourselves spiritually and our fellowship together. It will be a year of committing ourselves to Christ, to His church, to each other, and to the tasks of our vision. 1983 will be a very important year for us. Unless we become committed to this vision as a body, then there may not be sufficient strength to carry it through. We feel that there is no higher purpose than serving our Lord, no activity or organization more deserving of our lives than His church.

We look forward to 1983 as a year when more and more of our people, and more and more of the people of our Parish, become a part of this great vision that we share at Christ Church.

1984 through 1990 include years of greater service and a broader ministry by our congregation. Included also is a building program that will complete our facility by the addition of a sanctuary, offices, and a printing room. The decade comes to an end in 1991 when the church will face the task "planning for another decade of work."

To receive God's love in Christ and to share that love with others is a great privilege and a great responsibility. Pray that we shall be found awake and at work during the Decade of Discipleship.

"Then I said, 'Here am I; send me.'" Isaiah 6:8
With written permission of the District Superintendent, a Church Conference was held. Approximately 65 people attended. The meeting opened with prayer by Rev. Jeff Dunn.

The conference members were made aware of the report of the Long Range Planning Committee. The committee consisted of twelve members and was chaired by Mildred Perkins. Their report was first brought to the Administrative Council on April 8, 1985. The report had confirmed the need for a new sanctuary and gave specific recommendations for the planning of the building.

Rev. Dunn informed the body that we now needed to establish a seven member building committee. The committee was selected as follows: Each person in attendance voted by writing the names of four persons on a card. The results were tabulated and the seven persons receiving the greatest number of votes were: Paul Branch, Tommy Cousins, Eugene Williamson, Lamar Freeman, Orrin White, David Reed, and Don Rogers.

Reuben Haithcock made a motion that we establish a Building Committee. Hazel Riddle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Susan Reed made a motion that the seven persons selected by secret ballot be appointed to the Building Committee. The motion was seconded by Doris Miller and passed unanimously.

There was discussion concerning the establishment of sub-committees and selection of a chair by the Building Committee, but no further motions were made.

The meeting closed with prayer and singing.

Evelyn Smith, Recording Secretary
July 21, 1992

Rev. Jeffrey Burroughs Dunn
Christ United Methodist Church
819 N. Marlboro Street
Bennettsville, S. C. 29516

Dear Jeff,

This letter is to advise you that The Marion District Board of Church Location and Building met with the minister, architect and representatives from Christ United Methodist Church Bennettsville, S.C. on Thursday, July 16, at 7:00 P.M. in the Marion District Office in Marion, S.C. and unanimously approved of the Church to proceed with the project by raising the necessary funds. It was reported that the funds needed to build a new sanctuary and renovate the existing structure is $500,000. The District BCLB suggested that at such time the church had raised $300,000 (counting whatever grants or funds you may get from The United Methodist Church) you come back to the us for final approval.

We remind you of paragraph 2520 #3 of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 1988 edition which reads: "A final decision of the board approving purchase, building, or remodeling shall automatically terminate after a period of one year, where no action has been taken by the local church to carry out such decision."

We were very impressed with you and your people and your plans. Thank you for your ministry in Bennettsville.

Yours in His Service;

John M. Williams, Jr.
Chairperson, Marion District Bd.
of Church Location and Building

CC:
Rev. Robert J. Howell
Members of Dist. BCLB
November 2, 1993

Reverend Jeff Dunn
Christ United Methodist Church
819 N. Marlboro Street
Bennettsville, SC 29512

Dear Jeff,

This letter is to record the approval by the District Committee on Building and Location of The Marion District of The United Methodist Church, South Carolina Annual Conference for the building project of Christ United Methodist Church of Bennettsville.

This action took place in a special meeting at the church site on Tuesday October 6, at 5:00 p.m. Your building plans seemed to be in good order and your plan of finance was excellent.

You have met the guidelines of The United Methodist Church and you are authorized to proceed.

Sincerely,

Bill B. Williams
Chairman
District Committee on Building and Location for The Marion District

Copy: Marion District Superintendent