

EDITED 3/2//09 – 6PM

**MADISON SQUARE CHURCH
COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATES
JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2009**

The Council consists of 10 elders, 10 deacons, and the lead pastor.

The council meets quarterly and as needed.

The Executive Committee consists of 3 elders and 3 deacons, the executive director, the treasurer, and the lead pastor (ex officio).

The executive committee meets monthly, except for July.

January 6, 2009 Executive Committee

1. Financial matters
 - a. With under budget receipts (about the same as last year, but 12% under budget), and in spite of good effort in containing expenses, our cash balance is reduced by \$43,000 or 6% of budget. All ministry directors have been instructed to reduce their expenditure budgets by 10%.
 - b. Ministry share to classis. The amount expected by classis for 2008 was \$2,637 more than we budgeted. Executive Committee approved payment of this over-budget expenditure.
2. Grants from Making Room tithe. Cash is on hand for distributing a tithe on the 2008 fiscal year (approx \$40,000 total). The task force will be inviting grant applications, and will be making recommendations to the EC for approval, possibly in April 2009.

January 13, 2009 Council Meeting

1. Making Room and Madison Place

Observations

- ◆ Financial support for our Making Room fund, while providing occasion for praise and thanksgiving in many ways, is not sufficient to warrant our proceeding with renovating (1401) Madison Place at this time.
- ◆ The slow-down in giving to the General Fund and Special Funds, coupled with gloomy economic forecasts for 2009, recommend that we exercise both Christian stewardship and reasonable caution in our financial plans and commitments.
- ◆ Wisdom requires that we maintain a healthy balance between keeping the Making Room vision before the congregation along with providing period opportunities to contribute, while at the same time giving our best efforts to meeting commitments already made through our General and Special Fund budgets.

Council decided the following:

- a. To not proceed with the renovating of Madison Place at this time.

- b. That Council, Staff and Making Room leaders keep the Making Room vision before the congregation in all appropriate ways, including the scheduling of an offering quarterly for receiving pledge contributions and new one-time gifts.
 - c. That the status of plans for renovating (1401) Madison Place be revisited by the above named leaders at least semi-annually and as indicated.
- 2, Unified Budget and One Morning Offering
- This matter was presented to the Council by the Executive Committee. After lengthy discussion it was referred back to the Executive Committee for further consideration, with a view to giving advice and recommendations to a future meeting of Council.

January 27, 2009 Council Retreat

1. The Council met with the preaching team and ministry directors for dinner and an extended evening retreat. The purposes of the retreat were:
 - a. To build community among our staff and council leaders
 - b. To take a “big picture” look at overall purpose and goals
 - c. To consider radical changes in we do go about ministry
2. Looking Back and Ahead. Victoria introduced council reflections in relation to a DVD on multi-racial church. Pastor Dave then gave an overview of the 2014 vision planning process leading to the six priority themes, followed by group work in identifying ways in which these themes are being implemented, and issues and concerns that invite more consideration. Pastor Dave then presented two proposed changes in ministry plans, after which the entire assembly divided into three working groups to evaluate the plans with the assistance of a S.W.O.T. (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis. All feedback was recorded and circulated to all participants, with the understanding that the Council and Staff leadership would review the feedback and propose direction and next steps to the Executive Committee and Council for further consideration.

February 3, 2009 Executive Committee

1. Finance Matters
 - a. Praise God: January was the 1st month in this fiscal year that income was greater than expenditures.
 - b. Special Fund treasurers are Dan Cooper for Christian Education, Craig Verhulst for the Deacons fund and Judd Smeelink for Missions. The Christian Education fund is 18% below budget for the 1st 6 months; the Missions fund is 6% behind budget and the Deacons fund is 2% behind budget as of 12/31/08.
 - c. Treasurer Jim Booydegraff reported that Mark Flockhart and Robert Shane audited Madison’s financial books for fiscal year 2007-2008, and that the report is being written.
 - d. Jim Booydegraff submitted his resignation as treasurer (some months earlier), due to increasing responsibilities in his work, although with the agreement that he

continue through the new budget building process. His resignation was received with regret, acknowledging his six years of outstanding volunteer service.

- e. Anthony Dickerson reported on efforts to recruit a new treasurer. Subsequent to the meeting Scott Huebl agreed to serve as treasurer, and the executive committee approved his appointment by email. Scott will begin April 1, 2009 – with Jim assisting through the budget approval process as needed.

2. Proposal for Unified Budget and One Morning Offering.

Upon reconsideration of Council feedback regarding this matter, the Executive Committee submitted a revised recommendation that Council request congregational approval (prior to consideration of the budget, if possible in March) for presenting a unified annual budget which would include the General Fund, and the Christian Education, Deacons and Missions Funds, with these understandings:

- a. The budgeted amounts for the Christian Education, Deacons, and Missions funds will not exceed the percentage of total congregational giving (excluding Making Room) for the two prior complete fiscal years (i.e., 2006-07 and 2007-08).
- b. The transition to a unified budget and one morning offering will become effective July 1, 2009.

Notes:

- ◆ As of February 26, 2009, by way of email vote of 15 yes and 3 no, the Council approved this motion for recommendation to the congregation.
- ◆ Additional clarification and rationale for the motion will be communicated to the congregation on or before March 8 and March 15, with Question and Answer times on March 15, and a congregational vote scheduled for on or before March 22.

3. Nominating team for new elders and deacons.

Patty Hogan agreed to serve as task force chair for a second year. She will be assisted by Don Huizenga and Stacia Hoeksema from the congregation, and Victoria Gibbs, Linda Naranjo-Huebl, and Cherith Nordling on behalf of Council. The anticipated need is for /nominating two new elders and one new deacon.

Please address questions and comments to MadisonSquareCouncil@gmail.com