

**Minutes from the Congregational Forum
Metropolitan Community Church of Greater St. Louis
February 20, 2005**

Rev. Dr. Carol T. opened the meeting with prayer and the meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm. It was explained that the purpose of the forum was to ask questions and meet leaders in ministry.

Minutes of the 2004 Informational Forum and Congregational Meetings were reviewed and a vote to approve the minutes will take place at the Congregational Meeting scheduled for Sunday, February 27, 2005.

Church Staff – Each staff member was introduced and questions/comments were allowed for each report. The following were questions presented to the Senior Pastor:

- Sandra E. asked the status of a new church building and it was explained that from the Strategic Plan a Facilities Focus Group has been created to review this matter and when the time comes it will be put to a congregational vote.
- Molly E. inquired about the difference/distinction in service types.
- Rev. Carol explained that the information gathered from the congregational surveys will be shared after March 5th, 2005.

Council on Ministry - Team Leaders were introduced and questions/comments were allowed for each report.

- Altar Guild – Inquiries into replacing our existing communion ware and it was explained that we are researching other possibilities.
- Children’s Church – Molly E. asked about the curriculum and whether it corresponds to the sermon.
- Community Support – A more detailed description of this Team was given and explained that there will be more involvement through the community and they will be working with the Holy Ground Group and individually giving support outside the doors of MCCGSL. Mel S. inquired about whether there would be active participation in Social Justice issues.
- Equinox – Molly E. asked about the support offered through the group for other ethnicities.
- Golf Classic – Brief comments were made and participation by everyone is encouraged.
- Out N About – It was stated that they try to schedule a variety of events that would be of interest to all.
- Pride – Tentatively they will be using a theme of “Alive in Christ” for 2005 and they will be working with Equinox for Black Pride.
- Stewardship – Denise S. commented on the appreciation of the seminars presented by the team.
- Worship Participants – This team is working on increasing participants and diversity.

The Board of Directors were introduced and Rev. Carol made a presentation to Keith T. in honor of his many years of service to the MCCGSL Board of Directors.

Treasurer's Report & 2005 Proposed Budget - both were presented and questions/comments were allowed.

- There was a Net Loss of \$618.12 for 2004.
- Comparisons are available monthly.
- There was a question in regard to the Personal Property Tax paid in 2004, this will be reviewed and an answer will be available on February 27th.
- Questions were allowed on the Dollman Properties and Keith T. responded accordingly.
 - What exactly is owned?
 - There have been two offers on the properties but were not based on the value of the property.
 - What is the current value/estimate on the properties?
 - Is it advertised that the properties could be for sale?

Lay Delegates were introduced: Cathey A., Bettye B., Jackie Mc., Willie N. and Rev. Carol spoke briefly on the thoroughness of their report from the Region 2 conference and noted that if Bettye B. were elected to the Board of Directors she would resign as a Lay Delegate and the next alternate would be Dana N.

By Law Amendment – The proposed By Law amendment was introduced and brief questions/comments were allowed.

Board Candidates – The four Board Candidates were introduced: Bettye B., Mike E., Michele J. and Denise S. and were allowed two minutes to respond to the following question: *What are your strongest spiritual gifts and how do you foresee utilizing those gifts on the Board of Directors?*

A brief explanation about the upcoming Board of Directors election on the following Sunday were given.

- Four positions are available on the Board and there are four candidates
- MCCGSL By Laws require 50% plus one of the vote to be elected.
- A member of the congregation is allowed to make a motion from the floor to waive the By Laws and accept all of the candidates.
- You must be present to vote, no proxy vote will be allowed.
- Arrangements will be made to accommodate everyone.

Keith T. closed the meeting with prayer at 2:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela L. Koenig

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Director of Administration