

# SUGAR LAND FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## CHURCH CONFERENCE

Minutes of March 10, 2009 Church Conference

- 1. Purpose of Conference:** Sugar Land First United Methodist Church held a church conference in the Sanctuary at 431 Eldridge Road in Sugar Land, Texas beginning at 7:00 p.m. on March 10, 2009 to receive and act on the motion of the building committee about an expenditure of funds for the completion of architectural plans and other matters related to the construction of facilities. The motion presented is attached to these minutes.
- 2. Notice of Conference:** Notice of the purpose of the conference and the date, time and place of the conference was given to the church membership beginning about two weeks prior to the conference, including a meeting on March 4, 2009 where the proposal was presented in writing and discussed and questions were answered.
- 3. Attendees:** The sign-in sheet for the Conference is attached to these minutes.
- 4. Materials Provided:** At the Conference, attendees were provided a copy of the attached agenda, statement of the motion of the building committee, rationale, status of the building campaign and pledges made and collected, projected costs, and a color-coded drawing of existing and projected facilities. At the Conference, three blow-up drawings and three renderings or pictures of facilities were exhibited. Each member attending was provided with a ballot form with the motion stated on the ballot.
- 5. Greeting and Opening Prayer:** Southwest District Superintendent Gail Ford Smith introduced herself as the presiding officer of the Conference, welcomed those attending, and opened the conference with prayer at 7:06 p.m.
- 6. Election of Secretary:** Gail Ford Smith called for nominations for the position of secretary of the Conference, and Charlie Huber was nominated and accepted. The members elected Charlie Huber to serve as secretary of the Conference.
- 7. Review of the Process:** Senior Pastor Rev. Marty Nicholas reported on the process followed over several years to: (i) identify the ministry and program areas of children, music and worship as priorities; (ii) the steps taken including the addition of staff in those areas; (iii) the review of the use of facilities and the identification of critical facilities needs; (iv) the efforts made to maintain facilities and the cost; (v) the 2007 church conference authorizing the creation of a building committee; (vi) the work of the building committee and the return of its report at a church conference in May 2008 about the concepts for an improvement or expansion of facilities; (vii) the Imagine Campaign asking for pledges based on those concepts; (viii) the receipt of campaign pledges in November 2008; (ix) the work of the trustees, finance team and building committee to prioritize the facilities needs based on the campaign pledges; (x) the rationale for

the motion presented at this Conference and the facilities items described in the motion; and (xi) emphasized the need to proceed with prudence and caution in the current economic climate by taking this next step before a further church conference to consider a financial budget and construction schedule.

**8. Review of Finances:** John Knock presented a review of the Imagine Campaign pledges made and collected, the cost estimate for the items described in this motion, emphasized that the expected cost of the items described in this motion is fully covered by pledges already received and held by the church, and described the current status of the operating budget and expenses.

**9. Recommendation:** Scott Luhnau for the building committee presented the recommendation and motion, emphasizing the limitation in the motion on the amount of the authorized expenditure. Robert Reid for the trustees confirmed how we are proceeding with prudence and caution in making this limited recommendation to maintain momentum with the architects while reserving the opportunity to review the church's financial situation and the economic conditions before a further church conference asking for approval of further action.

**10. Discussion:** Gail Ford Smith asked for questions, and questions were answered about the total projected cost for the construction of the facilities referred to as "Building B", a clarification that the language of "stained glass removal and restoration" in the motion refers only to the restoration of stained glass items as worded, confirming this motion if approved is an interim and not a final action by the church membership authorizing us to proceed with work on the "Building B" proposal, and why we are proceeding with prudence and caution by making this limited motion.

**11. Vote and Approval of Motion:** Gail Ford Smith asked if the members were ready to vote and, based on the affirmative response, asked the members to complete their ballots by voting Yes or No on the motion on the ballot form and turn them in. Gail Ford Smith counted the ballots and announced the motion was overwhelmingly approved.

**12. Closing Prayer:** Charlie Jessup closed the Conference with prayer at 7:50 p.m.

Prepared and Submitted By:



Charlie Huber  
Secretary of the Conference