

Session Report January 2011

At your Session's regular meeting on January 25, the following significant actions were taken:

The Session expressed appreciation to Dick and Martha Crofts on behalf of the congregation for the masterworks "Gloria" and all the other music presented during Advent.

The Clerk of Session provided annual membership statistics. At year-end, membership totaled 1,192 – 955 regular and 237 affiliate members. This represented 48 fewer members than a year earlier, primarily resulting from purging the records during the year to remove members who had not maintained their membership. A total of 100 members joined during the year.

Session received an annual report from Lea Leonard, the counselor who provides counseling services at Moorings. She met all terms of her memorandum of understanding with the church. Thirty percent of her clients were from Moorings – all received reduced or no fee service. As did Rev. Richard Ringenwald, Lea provides a valuable service at essentially no cost to the church.

Malcolm Chancey, Treasurer, reviewed the church's insurance coverage indicating major premium savings achieved in 2010 as a result of Yasmin Mohammed, Director of Operations & Accounting, working with our insurance agent. Further areas for possible savings are under consideration. Operating budget results for 2010 show that the church closed the year in the black. The proposed balanced operating budget of \$1,556,100 for 2011 was approved. More financial details will be provided at the annual congregational meeting on February 6.

Stewardship results to date are promising with the pledge goal of \$1,109,000 appearing achievable. On top of this goal, Stewardship is still seeking the additional \$50,000 for a Youth Director and a portion of these funds have been designated. The Session will work with the Youth Council and parents in seeking to fill this position. Support of our youth program is one of the top objectives for 2011.

The Officer Nominating Committee reported on the candidate lists for Elder, Deacon, and the 2011 Nominating Committee to be presented to the congregation for election at the annual meeting.

Rev. Hill announced a "Taking Your Church to the Next Level" seminar for all Elders, Deacons, and members to be held February 26 and 27. The general session will be from 9:30 – 2:30 on the 26th and a lunch after church on the 27th with all members encouraged to attend. Presenters will be Rev. Penny Hill and Dr. Tom Tewell.