

## **Session Report December 2010**

Your Session wants to keep you informed about its' meetings and actions taken in the interest of your church. This is the first of monthly summaries which will be made following each Session meeting which normally is held the fourth Tuesday of each month except during July and August. At its meeting on December 14, the following significant actions were taken:

Gary Price and Mary Beth Schultheis, Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) Co-Chairs, reported on the work being done by the PNC and presented, for Session approval, PNC's completed Church Information Form (CIF) which will be used to seek candidates for Senior Pastor. The CIF was approved and will be made available to the congregation for their information on-line and through other means. Session also approved salary guidelines for use in the search. Regular progress updates on the search will be given to Session and the congregation.

Dr. Jim Kirk reported on a successful Youth trip to ECHO and a well attended Youth retreat at Cedarkirk. Our youth, families, and Scout Troop joined Kids Against Hunger in packing over 40,000 meals for families in Collier County and Guatemala.

Martha Crofts indicated the Sunday School program, led by able parent volunteers, is strong and growing in attendance.

The Clerk's Report noted the membership as of November 30: Regular members totaled 955, Affiliates 237, and Total 1,192.

The Session set the church Annual Congregational meeting for Sunday, February 6, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. following the 10:00 service.

George Wiley, reported on the November 18 Presbytery meeting. At this meeting, the Presbytery voted by a narrow margin not to include the Belhar Confession in The Book of Confessions. Upcoming Presbytery meetings will consider changes in our form of governance and ordination standards. Presentations were made on the active and successful work of the Presbyterian church and others with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers toward ending modern day human slavery and improving pay and working conditions for farm workers in Florida and nationwide.

Malcolm Chancey, Treasurer, reported on church finances and the year to date operating budget. Although a shortfall between Revenues and Expenses is expected at year end, we will close the year with a balanced budget. We may have to use some undesignated gifts by a recent donor to do so. Chancey indicated that expenses, which are under good control, are not a problem but that our income is insufficient. For a church of Moorings size, income to cover operations and mission should be between \$1.5 and \$2.0 million. This needs to be addressed primarily through our pledge income. Finally, he noted that, by year end, less than \$300,000 should remain to be raised in 2011 to pay off the church mortgage.

Robin Doyle, Mission Chair, reported on the various agencies where Mission funds are being expended and that, when funds from all sources including operating budget, Growing to Serve

capital reserves for mission, and special appeals are included, the church will be making between \$135,000 and \$150,000 in mission contributions this year.

The Stewardship Committee is cautiously excited. As of December 14, 297 pledges were made totaling \$951,859. Compared to 2009 at this time our number of pledges trails slightly but our total is up 21%. Our goal is \$1,200,000. During high season in January, we will continue encouraging members to turn in pledges and updating the congregation. The budget will be set at either the January or February Session meeting.