Special Called Session of the Church Conference
Sept. 28, 2025

Pastor Jacob welcomed everyone and introduced District Superintendent Wendy Hardin Hermann who called the meeting to order at 12:20 pm and brought greetings from the Bishop and the 56 churches of our conference. She reminded those attending that only members would be allowed to vote.

PRESENTATIONS: Carol Craig, church Treasurer reported that Transforming for Tomorrow, the recent campaign has brought in a total of $322,942. In addition there is a bequest if $283,930 and $821,359 pledged but not yet received brings the total received to $1.427,930. Our goal is $1,800,000. Normally during our stewardship drive we have 100 giving units. Transforming for Tomorrow has received pledges from 57 giving units.

Nate Burke, Chair of the Trustees, said that the cost of the geo-thermal system is expected to be $1,700,712. The Trustees have paid $4,300 to David Buss to assess the building. Dirk Dybold, the owner of the company who will install the system, has been recommended by both the Euclid Avenue and Geneva churches. Tuckpointing of the entire building is expected to cost $125,000 to $140,000. An interior refresh of the interior of the building including the hallways, classrooms and youth room will cost $85,000. The grand total amounts to $1,800,000. $1,600,000 of that is necessary to move ahead with the geo-thermal heating system. The federal rebate should yield $640,000. If we took out a bridge loan for $350,000 we should be able to repay it from the rebate with $290,000 left.

Sharon deWaard, Chair of the Finance Committee, explained that we are proposing getting a $1,000,000 line of credit from the bank vs. a loan as a temporary measure. We would use our cash first ($322,842 plus $282,930) to pay for the geo-thermal system and then use the line of credit for the rest which would allow us 3 years to pay it off. At the end we may get donations from more of our giving units or get a loan if necessary. As money comes in it will go to pay off the loan. The other thing that will help is that our apportionment has been lowered and this year we will pay 10% instead of 16% which is $32,000 less than we paid in the past and that amount would cover a half year's interest.

QUESTIONS: Are there concerns about the federal rebate under the current administration? We have been told that while the rebate for businesses will disappear it is not expected that the rebate for not-for-profits will be dropped. When will the first payment need to be paid? We will negotiate that after the conference approves moving forward. When will the project begin? Technically it has already begun when we removed the old boiler. Will this affect the operating budget cash on hand? No because the funds for the geo-thermal system are kept in separate restricted accounts. Did we look into the cost of a conventional system vs. the geo-thermal system? There was a bid for $500,000 just to replace the boiler and that didn't include the other elements of the system. The total cost would have been higher than the geo-thermal system. In addition, the geo-thermal system will reduce utility costs by $20,000 per year and it will last twice as long as the boiler. Also, it's better for the environment because it lowers greenhouse gases.

MOTION: District Superintendent Hardin Herman moved that Community United Methodist Church authorize the Finance Committee and the Board of Trustees in consultation with the Church Council to secure financing in the amount of up to $1,000,000 for the Transformation for Tomorrow Capital Campaign so that the congregation may complete this transformational work in a timely and faithful manner.

The motion passed unanimously with 55 for, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining.

District Superintendent Hardin Herman closed the meeting with a prayer at 12:55 pm.

Sally Hines, Recording Secretary