

D

Special meeting: Parsonage Offer

Prayer—Pastor Dayne

Purpose is to discuss approval or disapproval of the Powell house. Offer was accepted by owners; contingent upon approval of SLT.

Dave made the motion to approve, Sherri seconded, so that we can begin discussion.

MaryLee noted good foundation, only \$50 in specials, water heater 2018, needs egress in basement, shower in basement needs upgrading. Sewer line will not be extended; no further specials for awhile.

Derek asked about the house and if it needed approval from the DS. It has had approval; however,

Dayne is concerned that it is a starter house that does not match the caliber of the church. He suggested that it is a lateral move rather than an upgrade.

It does not have the same number of bedrooms.

Mike said that it is a good house and an upgrade, well built, at a great location. He said the bedrooms are small but livable.

Dave noted that his dad's rule of thumb is that a parsonage should reflect the membership and should represent the homes that most of your members live in rather than the church. He felt the Powell house represented the average member's home.

Matt noted his own home's specs and suggested the specs of his house are parallel.

We discussed a potential housing bubble. Some felt that Valley City does not follow national trends.

The pastor is willing to make the sacrifice to drive until the parsonage is ready.

If the house is purchased, the move in date could be as soon as July 7<sup>th</sup>. It would be nice to do some of the fixes before the pastor moves in. Egress window is probably two months out, which means work on the basement could not be done immediately.

Sherri mentioned that she and Justin both would have no problem moving into the house.

Anita mentioned that she and Kevin both would not be willing to move into the house. She included mobility issues as reasons to not move into the house, as the laundry is downstairs. She talked about having faith at several different points in their lives, when they needed to acquire a house. She said, "It's all on faith," and encouraged us to have faith that a better house would come up. She noted that she heard of three houses, today, that are coming up for sale in the near future. She returned to discussions we had had on selling the parsonage. She said we chose option 3, that we were not to spend more than \$120,000 above the sale of the house, and the motion past. She discussed the history of renovating the church, and how we had fundraisers for the church to raise \$2 million, but we are nickel and diming now that we are talking about a parsonage. She feels it is disrespectful to the pastor and any future pastors. She noted that the church has always been able to raise money---for light bulbs, the parking lot, the sound system, the coffee kiosk. She noted that people donate money when they see a reason and a need. She felt we should have raised some money for the parsonage, to supplement the sale of the old parsonage. She noted that there is no wow factor, that we should be able to show the house to an

D

incoming pastor and that the pastor should be able to say, "Wow! This is a great house." She feels we are making the decision too hastily. She feels that at a salary of \$80,000 per year, most people would not be looking at the Powell house. She noted that there is no way to improve the house by adding a room, or changing the entry, or adding a house to garage entrance. She reiterated that she does not think we settle for an adequate house; she thinks we should raise money to get the house we want.

Rob feels that the house is a step to what we want. He feels we should take the step to save \$6000 on storage units. He said his family with 7 kids lived in a small house with a single bathroom and made it work and everyone turned out okay.

Marylee noted that giving is down and people who gave for the parsonage are not participating anymore. She noted that the parking lot at the church is not completely finished.

Dayne suggested that the way to increase giving is to do something new. He said that the new people who have come to Epworth need a new reason for giving.

Jackie and Mike had a disagreement over whether or not the house was appropriate. Someone else will have to fill in notes for that part of the discussion because Jackie was talking, not typing.

Sherri and Dave noted that giving is down. Dayne noted the trends nationwide. Anita reiterated that it was not the right house, and that we hadn't even tried to raise money. Mike reiterated that it is a good house with good bones. Marylee suggested we were doing things backwards. Anita reiterated that we could find a better house, and that we are acting hastily.

Dave noted that we have a difference of opinion. He suggested that we call for the question.

The question was called. We had a roll call vote.

Anita—no

Mike—no

Aaron—yes

Matt—yes

Lori—yes

Sherri—yes

Marylee—yes

Dave—yes

Derek—yes

Mike made the motion and Sherri seconded that we pay the pastor state mileage for commuting, including retro to when he moved out of the old parsonage, and also to give him flexible time to work from Fargo and reduce the mileage. The motion was approved.

Dayne noted that he has camp next week and is planning on two full weeks of vacation in July. He agreed that it does not make sense to redo the basement until the egress window is in.

D

I don't know why the D is above this line and I don't know how to get rid of it.

Dayne suggested that there should be two egress windows.

Mike will call Loni to get things started. Mike will be calling to get the flooring and other renovations started.

Dayne is not sure that the air conditioning is working in the sanctuary. Also, the disposal in the kitchen needs to be replaced.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm.