

BERKELEY COVENANT CHURCH
MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING — 12 September 2004 (unapproved)

Chair Rich Rhodes called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m. Thirty-four members and six friends signed the attendance roster. A time of prayer followed.

MINUTES — We approved the minutes of the 6 June 2004 annual meeting, except to note that “Peter presented the board’s budget recommendation for the July 2004 to June 2005 [not 2004] fiscal year.”

TREASURER’S REPORT — Treasurer Peter de Laveaga summarized parts of his report from the printed annual report. He said that in recent years, our budget had planned for a deficit, but each year the deficit had been significantly less than planned.

BOARD REPORT — Rich mentioned these items from the board report printed in the annual report:

- He thanked the centennial committee for a successful program whose net costs were under budget.
- He thanked Dave and Marty Stewart for hosting the board retreat in May.
- He announced that David Vahlstrom was stepping back from his position on the board for personal reasons.
- He announced that Michael Thwaites, who had been on leave from his board position, had resigned.
- He announced that Meri DeRouchey and Michael had resigned from their roles on the worship teams, and that David Yi and Ping Sui of Berkeley Korean Presbyterian Church would be helping lead worship music.
- He thanked God for his financial blessings to BCC.

WORLD SOJOURNERS — Ann Moriarty summarized these items from their report (which had not been bound with the rest of the annual report).

- Adrienne Wollitzer, Daniel Groot, Jeremy Milford, and Bill and Cathy Squires had participated in short-term mission projects.
- They anticipated a trip in spring 2005 to visit Lisandro and Patty Restrepo in Monterrey, Mexico.
- She asked us to continue to pray with them. She said God had blessed through their prayers.

LOCAL SOJOURNERS — Allison de Laveaga mentioned the following:

- Josh Moritz had recently joined the existing group: Vicky Brodt, Allison, and Jeremy).
- A new sign had been posted, to which further improvements were being considered.
- The 2004 Advent Dinner was being considered.
- She told us about a woman from overseas who had made Christian friends through the ministry of International Students, Inc. (ISI).
- She asked us to pray for BCC’s outreach ministries and the ministries we support.

SEEDS — Andrew Wollitzer explained the board’s goal of changing BCC’s emphasis from being a church *with* small groups to being a church *of* small groups. Here are some of our questions and responses.

- Q: How is this a change from the present? Andrew: Our activities would be the same. We gather as church both in our small group meetings and on Sunday mornings.
- Q: Since only half of BCC is involved in a small group, how do we plan to change? A: There will be a training class for small group leaders. One of the small groups is working to incorporate worship and evangelism into its activities, somewhat like a home church.
- Some small groups might not behave that way. Some may have a sharper focus.
- Andrew: The seeds group is not seeking uniformity. Our large group meeting is also essential. Small groups should worship together; care for one another and build one another up; and make disciples. Some groups may retain their current form and ways.

SHEPHERDS — Rich Rhodes summarized the following points from the annual report.

- The shepherds meet on the first Monday of each month. They spend most of their time in intercessory prayer. They also pray in subgroups for particular individuals’ needs. They might rename themselves the Intercessors.

- He encouraged us to submit prayer requests on Sundays using the blue cards. Although David Vahlstrom was on leave of absence from his usual availability for prayer on Sundays, we could ask any shepherd to pray with us: Cathy Blankespoor, Larry Cool, Clayton Hill, Jeanne Pfeuffer, Mary Rhodes, Pam or Steve Stanley.
- A need had been felt for a team to perform works of mercy.
- Pastor Al acknowledged that the prayer service on Sunday August 15 had been powerful.

STEWARDS — John Kroeker mentioned the following points from the annual report:

- The new coating on the tower might succeed in waterproofing it.
- The Adeney House sewer line had been repaired at a cost of about \$8,000.
- The carpet in the fireside room was to be replaced.
- The foyer carpet would be repaired.
- Q: Had the Smart Lights program saved money? Peter: No. Usage had been reduced but not dramatically. Another person pointed out that the light had improved. Peter promised a more detailed comparison.

“23” (ADULT CLASSES): Karen Davidson reported that the second year of classes had begun that day, with the Seeds’ class on small group leadership being the core class. Persons with ideas about adult education were invited to join the committee.

YOUTH AND UNIVERSITY MINISTRY — Andrew and Pastor Al summarized these ministries.

- The **junior high** school ministry (called the Corner, formerly called Search and Rescue) was meeting on Thursday evenings and was experiencing slow, steady growth. Forty to fifty percent of the kids attending were Christian; they were inviting their friends. Adult mentors were invited to meet with individual kids.
- The **high school** ministry was taking place through Young Life. Young Life’s focus on Berkeley High School, Albany High School, and Oakland Technical High School meant opportunities to reach unchurched students. There was also a Young Life core group called “Campaigners”.
- The youth **Sunday School** class called Faith Walk was being erratically attended.
- Volunteers were requested.
- Several helpers were active with the **university** ministry, including Tom Burnett, Nick Fawzi, and Bruce and Leanne Wydick. The ministry was focused in home groups rather than on attendance at Sunday worship. Response had been positive; they hoped for three or more conversions this year.
- Bruce said there were tentative plans for a conference on life issues on 29 January 2005 for persons in their twenties.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY — Royce Tanaka mentioned the seeds being planted in children’s lives through Crazy Club and the nursery program. He emphasized that the nursery was more than just child care. He thanked Laurie Fiddes for doing the work of the ministry.

PASTOR’S REPORT — Pastor Al mentioned some of the individuals who had been affected by BCC’s ministry:

- New attenders.
- Small groups who had helped BCC members in need, sometimes in work projects.
- Prayer groups forming around specific needs.
- Our growing connection with Harbor House.
- He announced that he would be on leave 10 October to 14 November to complete his Ph.D. dissertation.

A request was made that we avoid scheduling congregational business meetings during the Solano Stroll.

We closed the meeting with prayer at 2:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Phil Davidson, Secretary