

BERKELEY COVENANT CHURCH
MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING — 17 April 2005 (unapproved)

Chair Rich Rhodes called the meeting to order at 1:13 p.m. Twenty-nine members and four friends signed the attendance roster. A time of prayer followed.

MINUTES — We approved the minutes of the 30 January 2005 quarterly business meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT — Treasurer Peter de Laveaga said he had no written report to present, but gave the following summary.

- Of our total income budget of about \$300,000, we had planned for offerings to supply about \$200,000. But from 1 July 2004 through 31 March 2004, only about \$135,000 in offerings had been received instead of \$150,000. Peter's resulting concern had been considerably allayed by the \$13,000 offering received on Sunday 3 April.
- Our weekly offering was planned for about \$3,700 per week but we had been receiving \$3,400 on average.
- Expenses had totalled about \$10,000 less than the budgeted amount.
- Mustard Seed Preschool's financial situation was "fantastic". Director Cathy Squires was still in the gradual process of transferring her duties to Rina Woodfin. Current enrollment was full. Full enrollment seemed very possible for fall 2005.
- Concerning offerings, BCC financial secretary Bill Colbert mentioned a decline in attendance including the departure of a giver of significant amounts.
- Peter asked prayer for the process of training Sarah Jorgensen to be bookkeeper for the church and preschool.

INTERCESSORS — Rich reported the following:

- They met regularly on the evening after the first Sunday each month. They were organized into subgroups to pray for special needs in the church.
- They were considering the message Barbara Franzen had shared with BCC on Sunday 3 April.
- Prayers were being answered. Pam and Steve Stanley were growing during Pam's medical challenges.

LOCAL SOJOURNERS — Peter de Laveaga reported the following on behalf of his wife Allison:

- They consisted of Vicky Brodt, Allison, and Joshua Moritz.
- A new outreach would begin: participation with St. Mary Magdalen church's food program.
- BCC had collected two full barrels of food for the Alameda County Food Bank.
- The parenting class on Fridays 8 and 15 April had involved five families from the preschool. The group planned to meet again informally.
- An opportunity to hear a presentation from the Gideons had been declined.
- Vicky expressed a desire for others to join in forming the group's decisions.

WORLD SOJOURNERS — Carole Cool reported that they had been involved with the visit of Fr. Ben Beltran and the Philippines dance troupe; InterVarsity Christian Fellowship had done most of the work. A group had visited Monterrey, Mexico, to encourage Lisandro and Patty Restrepo.

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE — Rich reported that they consisted of Carole, Peter, and Rich, and had met several times. He said their activities tended to be driven by difficulties in the relationship between the pastors and the congregation. He expressed their desire for wider ministry to the pastors and the church.

PASTORAL STAFF REPORTS — Pastor Al reported the following:

- He had sensed and appreciated the congregation's support and prayer after the difficulties of the previous quarter.
- The Seeds were excited and inspired in their work. They had held a dinner for home group leaders on Saturday 6 March. God was working through the home groups.
- People were coming to God. A baptismal service might be scheduled for the summer.
- He felt some concern that a few people were leaving BCC. He had spoken with three to learn their reasons.
- He had recently been away from BCC on more Sundays than he liked.
- He would be a speaker at the GTU commencement ceremony at which he would receive his Ph.D.
- On Sundays 5 and 12 June, Pastor Brian Woodson of Bay Area Christian Connection (Oakland) and Pastor Steve Wong of Grace Community Covenant Church (Los Altos) would swap pulpits with BCC like last year. This time, worship teams from each church would travel and serve with the pastors.
- A youth program director was wanted. BCC leaders were considering hiring Linda Nouem, specifically to work with middle schoolers and high schoolers.
- Peter encouraged attendance at the all-church retreat, to be held 26-28 August. He announced that Judy Peterson would speak.
 - Q: Would another church participate (like last year)? A: Probably not.
 - A: The retreat them will be "spiritual gifts on the ground."
 - One person emphasized the value of the retreat in building our unity amid our diversity.

Royce Tanaka reported on several of his ministries:

- Crazy Club was serving a diverse group of second- to fifth-graders on Friday nights, including some unchurched families.
- The Joyful Noise children's choir (who participated with the Gold worship team) were gaining a sense of worship.
- The nursery ministry was bursting. He had been discussing with Vicky the possibility of a second Sunday school/Adventure Club program.
- In the Wednesday morning Bible study he had been connecting with several older BCC members, some of whom were unable to attend church on Sundays.

Andrew Wollitzer reported the following:

- He had been training Linda to minister to youth in ways that he could not.
- He wanted to connect youth with adult mentors but he had not been able to get this organized.
- The junior high group was healthy. He expected one or more conversions.
- The college ministry was growing through relationships. Joshua and Melissa Moritz had been serving as volunteers. Joshua had been teaching the Apostles' Creed to a diverse group with various levels of understanding. Bruce Wydick said the small group at his house was focused on persons in their twenties. They had two (formerly three) subgroups. Nic Fawzi said the group at his house met biweekly and bridged the Christian and non-Christian communities.
- For junior highers to attend summer camp, money would be needed. Perhaps they would organize fund-raising events. Andrew requested ideas.
- The Seeds were seeking ways to care for and edify the leaders of our small groups.

BYLAW AMENDMENTS

- The following bylaw amendment was passed, having been presented in writing to the 27 January board meeting and the 30 January quarterly congregational business meeting: to amend Article IV (Board of Elders), Section 4 (Responsibilities), subsection q to read

Secure congregational approval for the following: (1) call of all full-time ministerial staff; (2) the annual budget; and (3) any non-budgeted expenditures exceeding 2% of the annual expense budget; (4) total non-budgeted expenditures in one fiscal year exceeding 5% of the annual expense budget.

- The following proposed amendment was presented in writing by the Pastoral Relations Committee: to change “chairman” to “vice chairman” in both Article V, Section 5 (Pastoral Relations Committee members) and Article VI, Section 3 (Pastoral Relations Committee).

IGLESIA MARANATHA — Pastor Al and others described a Spanish-speaking church called Iglesia Maranatha. This church was seeking affiliation with the Covenant. The members lived in Oakland, San Francisco, and other cities. They were currently meeting in two Richmond homes but were seeking a larger site. The idea was being considered that Iglesia Maranatha could rent space from BCC, but not merely as a tenant: so we might have opportunities to minister together. A barbecue would soon be scheduled so we could get to know each other. Al acknowledged the complexity of including a third church in our building. He gave his opinion that the difficulties would be worthwhile if a real partnership resulted.

Pastor Al closed the meeting in prayer at 2:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Davidson
Secretary