**Portland Center of SRF**

**General Membership Meeting**

**February 25, 2018**

The meeting was conducted by members of the Managing Council: Sarah Floyd, Sharon Schaefer and Rebecca Field. Ron Cobb is the project manager for chairs and carpet project.

There were approximately 25 people present, including the Managing Council.

The meeting was opened with a prayer and period of meditation. Handouts were distributed. Meeting procedures and guidelines were read from the Center Department Manual. A review of the last General Membership Meeting was presented.

**Budget Presentation**

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| **Current Account Information**  $15,000 in reserve  $36,000 in the general fund  ($3,000) minus electrical repairs  $33,000 remaining in the general fund  $16,500 for chairs and carpet  $16,500 remaining in general fund | **Chairs and Carpet Project**  Proposed amount $16,500  Cost of chairs $10,500  Remainder $6,000  Carpet Estimate: $7,310  Minus remainder: (6,000)  Need: $1,300 and additional $690 for cushions  Amount needed: $2,000 (revised to $4,000 on 3/14/18 due to inflationary increases for carpet) |

**CHAIRS**

The chair that is being recommended is manufactured by Churches of America. It is the same chair being used at the Encinitas J-Street temple, the nun’s meditation chapel at Mother Center and other SRF Centers. A prototype is available for members to see and sit on.

The cost of 110 chairs is $10,500. The chair arrangement in the sanctuary would be the same as it is now.

**Suggestions and comments from Membership**

* Get two kinds of cushions: thin and thicker
* Provide wedged cushions
* It is really important to have the chair parallel to the floor.
* At the Encinitas every retreatant has two cushions – a flat one, a wedged one.
* The chairs are wider so there is space between the chairs if they are close together.
* These chairs clamp together; the cleaners can tilt the whole row up for vacuuming
* They have a pocket on the back for the chant booklet

**Q.** At the last meeting the cost was $28,000. Why is it less now?

**A:** The Managing Council realized that we were suggesting a much bigger project than we as a group were prepared to finance. Plus, we had not involved the membership in decision-making ahead of time. We then decided that the sanctuary seating and basic beautification with new carpet was enough at this time. The Sunday school floors will be done later as will the bathrooms, back hallway and kitchens.

**Motion on new chairs**

A motion was made to purchase the suggested chairs. All approved; no declined.

**Carpeting**

**Suggestions and Comments:**

* Identify squeaks in the floor before laying the carpet
* We are beautifying Master’s building
* If we have the carpet steam cleaned regularly it takes care of indentations.
* We may need to beef up the cleaning committee if more vacuuming is required.
* Install during the summer for off-gassing. The carpet is nylon and does not off-gas but the glue will.
* The cost could be more since this is a based on an older estimate.

**Q**. How long will the carpet last?

**A.** At least as long as our current carpet which is approximately 23 years old. It depends on how much it is walked on.

**Q.** What kind of pad will be under the carpet?

**A.** It will be glued down

**Q.** How long will it take for the carpet job to be completed?

**A.** One week. The contractor said they would do the job until it was done.

**Q.** When will we get the chairs?

**A.** It takes 12 weeks to get the chairs once they are ordered. Mother Center needs to approve the order first. The carpet company needs 4-5 weeks.

**FUNDING SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS**

* Oregon City has a website where people can sell things. Perhaps try selling the pews there and on other similar websites.
* Pledges - pledges are a great idea and can speed up the process of raising the money.
* The pews will need to be sold.
* Start a building fund and have a larger vision for the building and grounds.
* Wait until we get the chairs before we get pillows to see how many we should get and what kind.
* Move to sell the pews now. It might take a while for a buyer to be found.
* Use the money from selling the pews to start a building fund.

**Motion**

1. A motion was moved to carpet the main floor and upstairs the chosen carpet and as approved by Mother Center. All approved; no opposed.
2. A motion was made to use $16,500 from the General Fund for the chairs and carpet. All present approved to allocate $16,500 toward this project.

Submitted by Rebecca Field on 2/28/18