Pre-Assembly Information for Point of Grace Church

This is an introduction and brief summary of the action items which will be a part of the agenda for the congregational Celebration on January 24th. This year we are doing things a little differently. Instead of separating the annual *items of business* (that require congregation action) from the celebration of what God has done and in anticipation of what He will do this year, we are combining this together in one great evening. We will celebrate what God has done over the last year through worship, fellowship, testimony and thanks giving. We will then use that REAL God foundation to anticipate what God will do through Point of Grace in 2010.

There are two major items of business that require the congregational action for this year's annual assembly -the Election of the two constitutionally mandated Leadership Teams and the approval of the annual operating budget. These two congregational responsibilities will form the basis for the business portion of our Congregational Celebration on January 24th. To assist every member in understanding the issues at hand and to provide an opportunity for open discussion, Point of Grace's leadership will be sponsoring two public "Q and A" sessions – Sunday, January 17 after the late service and Tuesday, January 19 at 7pm. These sessions are available to anyone who has questions and would like to discuss the business items on the assembly's agenda. Our Pastor and leaders will be available for these sessions.

Approval of the Spiritual Leadership Team and Management Team Members

Through a nomination process that included nominations from any member who desired to present a name, the following slate of candidates is presented by the church leadership for the congregation's approval.

Spiritual Leadership Team

The current members of the team who are in the middle of their two year term and therefore not up for approval this year are John Hunt and Richard Zoch.

The nominees for the team's three open places are Dave Schabillion, Cindy Russell and Kristi Brown.

The Management Team

The current members of the team who are in the middle of their two year term and therefore not up for approval this year are Jacob Beyerlein , Vice President and Lisa Cleary , Treasurer.

The nominees for the teams three open places are:
Jerry Russell - President
Lisa Lourcey - Secretary
Ken Pitner – Member at Large

Approval of the Annual Operating Budget

It is our custom at Point of Grace to accompany the presentation of the annual operating budget for the coming year with financial information from the previous year as well as outlining the ministry plans for the coming year. This information is very helpful in understanding the opportunities and challenges presented in the annual operating budget.

2010 Ministry Plan

1)We (PoG Congregation) affirm the continued growth and impact of PoG's core ministry areas which are already established (*Worship, Outreach (including Alpha), Children/Families, Youth, Small Groups, Men, Women as well as ministries of mercy and service.)* We call on leaders to seek God and submit to the power and leading of the Holy Spirit in these areas of ministry. We call on the leader of these core ministry areas to respond to the changing ministry climate as God directs.

Comments: The Staff and Leadership of Point of Grace senses great strides were made in ministry in all areas in 2009. It was our first year in a permanent facility and God showed Himself strong and effective. Point of Grace experienced growth in depth of ministry effectiveness and as well as breadth of impact. This statement of affirmation encourages ministry leaders and participants to celebrate what God is doing and move forward courageously in 2010.

2) We (PoG Congregation) recognize and affirm the vision of Point of Grace to become a more "deployed" church in all aspects. We support PoG's involvement as an Alpha Lighthouse Church, the opportunity to conduct ministry-impacting conferences at PoG, and the deployment of evangelistic ministry into neighboring communities (specifically the small group led Alpha course in Elgin).

Comments: This statement of affirmation honors and supports a future ministry direction that our Pastor and leaders sensed God revealing over the course of 2009. By intentionally "seeking God concerning our future," our staff and leaders see a new volume of ministry opening up for Point of Grace. Point of Grace has spent the last several years of our young life having to focus a great deal of energy on building a physical base for ministry operations. Then, in 2009, our strategic initiative was to maximize – for God's purposes -- having a new building and a permanent physical presence. As we move forward in 2010 and beyond, we sense a whole new volume opening up in Point of Grace's God-story. Having now built the base, we believe God wants us to move forward as a DEPLOYED people. Each one of us deploys daily into our families, vocations and schools. Small groups DEPLOY into neighborhoods and surrounding cities. Point of Grace is to DEPLOY throughout the region and world - all to be "salt and light forces" for the advancement of God's kingdom. DEPLOY is a visionary mentality which keeps us always looking outward for opportunities to "Connect REAL People to a REAL God!" With a DEPLOY mentality we see ourselves as part of God's Kingdom Vision for the world.

Three specific, God-given, "DEPLOY" opportunities impacted ministry in 2009 and continue into 2010. Due to our longstanding support and implementation of the Alpha Course as our key evangelistic

strategy, ALPHA USA leaders asked us to be a Lighthouse Church for the Greater Austin Area. In this role we can become a source of inspiration, encouragement and training for churches to use the Alpha Course throughout the Austin area. We also sense a strong calling to sponsor ministry-empowering conferences for the greater Christian community in this region. Our first conference -- "Filled With Hope" -- will deploy skill, zeal and truth for doing effective ministry in an increasingly homosexual culture. The third opportunity to deploy has come via the verve of a new small group that formed this summer in the Elgin area. This small group truly sees itself deployed by God to reach that community and is sponsoring their own Alpha Course this spring.

Approval of the Annual Operating Budget for 2010

Below is a spreadsheet which includes the actual expenses and income for 2009 and the proposed financial plan for 2010. Please read the "Explanations" section following the spreadsheet for helpful information in understanding the spreadsheet.

	2009		**2010**	
General Offerings	315,632		445,443	
Close The Gap	55,570		5,000	
Other	2,757		-	
Texas District Subsidy	15,000		-	
Line of Credit	-		93,503	
Total Giving	**388,959**		**543,946**	
Salaries/Benefits	251,460	*53%*	254,405	*47%*
Mortgage	100,624	*21%*	159,389	*30%*
Utilities/Water	36,709	*8%*	35,380	*7%*
General & Administrative	34,717	*7%*	29,474	*5%*
TX District Missions	9,469	*2%*	22,272	*4%*
Program Expenses	39,849	*8%*	43,026	*7%*
Total Expenses	**472,828**		**543,946**	
Net Gain/(Loss)	***(83,869)***		**-**	

Explanations

- In 2009 we had a special "over and above" giving campaign called Close the Gap. This ends in January of 2010. A special campaign is not planned for in 2010 but rather a strong emphasis on faithfulness, trust and obedience in general giving.
- The offerings will need to increase by about 20% in 2010. The base number that the 20% is figured on assumes that the Close the Gap gifts of 2009 will continue in 2010 as general offerings.
- There is no Texas District Subsidy in 2010.
- Point of Grace Leadership is requesting authorization from the congregation to market the lower five acres of Point of Grace land and liquidate it in the best interests of the church. It is assumed this could take two or three years. In the mean time the Management Team requests authorization to get a Line of Credit from our lender for $100,000 for this year backed by the lower five acres.
- Expenses have been held to a minimum, there are no salary increases planned for 2010.
- POG will incur 12 full months of mortgage expense in 2010, compared to 4 full payments and 5 interest payments in 2009.
- POG will increase TX District Missions giving from 3% to 5% and this increases proportionately with General Giving.
- Medical and Retirement Benefits increased approximately 10%.
- The budget includes additional expenses for the Elgin Alpha as well as the increased small groups initiative.
- Program expenses are comparable to 2009 expenses.

2010 Operating Budget Resolution (Draft)

We (Point of Grace Congregation) approve and support the 2010 financial plan as presented. As part of this financial plan we authorize the Management Team to secure a line of credit for $100,000 backed by a portion (the lower five acres) of the church's land and to market and sale the land in the best interests of the church and its mission. We understand and take responsibility for the increased giving (20%) that is required by this plan and that staged expense cuts which include significant salary cuts, will be implemented by the Management Team on a month by month basis if giving income is not sufficient to cover expenses.

Conclusion

It is our hope that this information will be helpful as you prepare for the assembly portion of our celebration. All of these items will be discussed at the Q and A sessions on Sunday, January 17th immediately following the late service and Tuesday, January 19th at 7:00.