

## **Vote of Confidence**

As set forth in our By-Laws, the Board of Trustees is the governing body of this church. Beginning in June 2008, the Board began an investigation of policy-based governance. Since then, the Board has created a Governance Task Force, engaged a consultant, and invested significant time and money in this effort.

The Board has concluded that a policy-based governance system will help the church achieve its mission more effectively and has begun the process of converting to the process set forth in *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership*, by Dan Hotchkiss (who also served as our consultant).

One tenet of the Hotchkiss process is a one-year trial period. To begin the trial period, the Board must have defined the structure and basic policies that the church needs to operate. During the trial year, the church will learn by doing, adjusting its structures and policies as needed. At the end of the trial year, the Board expects that it will have developed a more complete body of policies to guide our future and also will present to the congregation any changes in the By-Laws that might be needed to finalize our conversion to policy-based governance.

The Board is strongly in favor of converting to policy-based governance and has the authority to change its own policies to institute it. However, the Board is also very interested in making sure that the congregation is fully informed and supportive of the effort. Therefore, before setting forth on the trial year, the Board asks the congregation for a vote of confidence as follows:

**Resolved:** The congregation supports the Board in its efforts to convert to policy-based governance and to engage in the one-year trial period recommended by the Hotchkiss process beginning June 1, 2010.