

Popularity forces church to move

A growing congregation is one reason the First Baptist Church of Eugene is set to relocate to a County Farm Road building

By Jillian Daley
Oregon Daily Emerald

University students of the Trinity Women and Alpha Omega Men Christian co-ops will have their arms full as they load and move 75 years worth of office supplies and church sundries this week. The First Baptist Church of Eugene is making a change after nearly eight decades at its present location on High Street because church membership has skyrocketed beyond capacity. University members are helping the organization get settled in their new locale.

"Pretty much everyone here (in the Christian co-ops) has helped to some degree," Trinity member Sara Herman said. "They had 75 people show up (to help move) and didn't know what to do with them."

The co-ops share the same Alpha Omega House in the summer, with women and men on different floors. Both co-ops are actively involved with First Baptist, which will eventually move to a new building on County Farm Road.

First students are helping them set up temporarily at Eugene Christian Fellowship, where services will be held until the new location is complete, and that means keeping years of history in storage.

However, church members are hoping that this is the right move.

"It's a mixed bag," church committee member Jay Jones said. "There are both feelings of optimism and sentimentality. I've been at that church for 20 years. It's really the only church I know."

A year after their trek along the Oregon Trail, seven pioneers founded the congregation on July 1, 1852, making the group a part of the Eugene community for 150 years, although the High Street building has been around for only half as long.

Kimball E. Hodge III delivered his final speech as the church held its last service Sunday at the High Street location.

In closing, Hodge asked three questions of the congregation concerning the church's relocation efforts: why, what and how?

"Why does God put us through something like this?" Hodge said.

Hodge answered his question by calling the move a test of faith. As he addressed the congregation, his voice echoed off the high ceiling, and church members cried openly. A red-robed choir made an appearance, singing pieces such as "The House that Love Built."

"What does he expect of us?" Hodge said. "That which he expects is for us to walk by faith."

"How must we go on?" he said. "Together. We must go on as a family. We must go on with unity. We must go on — with great expectations."

Contact the reporter at jilliandaley@dailyemerald.com.



Adam Jones Emerald

Church members move nearly everything, as Eugene's oldest church outgrew its original building and is temporarily relocating to the Eugene Christian Fellowship.

Autonomy

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• Providing each university with the ability to establish its own board of trustees so that each institution may meet its needs.

While asking for more autonomy, the presidents promised to guarantee that student financial

needs are still met and to provide equal access to higher education for every qualified Oregonian.

ASUO President Rachel Pilliod said she does not have an official position, but there are potential concerns that may surround the presidents' proposal for autonomy.

"There are two sides to this: the individual University of Oregon side and the statewide view, mak-

ing sure that higher education is accessible for everyone," she said. "So, those are the things we're considering — quality of education and the faculty."

Pilliod added that she was concerned that faculty's pay and quality of education might be adversely affected by giving more autonomy to universities.

Board member and student representative Tim Young said that the positive aspect is that "(presidents) will be more nimble and able to respond to their market, which is students."

However, Young said he disagreed with the proposal because students will have fewer options for amending university policies.

"The sometimes conflicting aspects of universities will be allowed to run amok, splintering our collective efforts to make higher education successful in our legislature, in public and in policy," Young said.

University Senate President Gregory McLauchlan said the proposal would not mean a divorce from the state, and it would give universities more freedom.

"The basic meaning of (the proposal) is that there will be greater decision-making capacity, so the University of Oregon will be able to act more quickly and be more flexible in its policies from building to admission to setting academics," said McLauchlan, who is also a sociology professor.

Young said this "greater decision-making capacity" will inevitably lead to higher tuition.

"Tuition will go up dramatically," he said. "Presidents will raise

tuition to keep the school afloat. We are shifting the burden of running the institutions from the state to the student."

The concern is that if tuition is done school-by-school, it will affect student's rights to take issues to a higher level.

"If the decision begins and ends with students and presidents, students don't get to talk to state representatives and government to plead with them when tuition raises come up," Young said.

Despite claims that giving more autonomy to universities could allow for a better education, the Oregon Student Association may have a problem with such a change.

In a July 5 letter to board president Lussier, the OSA outlined steps they believe should be taken to protect students and their education. These steps included strong opposition to tuition increases. The letter also stated that OUS should continue to "provide a sense of balance between the missions of Oregon's universities" by maintaining the current system where the state board delegates tuition.

Frohnmayr disagrees.

"Even if tuition goes up, a portion will be set aside for financial aid," he said. He added that tuition would most likely not increase as a result of the proposal.

The board's newly formed committee will work to develop a system that will allow OUS and universities to work together more efficiently in setting tuition without disadvantaging students.

"We're not interested in summarily delegating tuition (power)

Oregon University System presidents requested more powers for each university, including:

- Eliminating spending limits on private university funds and giving universities the authority to set tuition and fees, as well as to create or expand academic programs.
- Granting universities all authority concerning information technology and telecommunication, and removing legislative approval requirements and state bureaucracy for construction when no state funding is used.
- Giving universities complete authority to buy, maintain and sell land and property.
- Providing universities with responsibility for all aspects concerning research and intellectual property of faculty and staff.
- Providing each university with the ability to establish its own board of trustees so that each institution may meet its needs.
- Giving universities complete management authority for financial and legal aspects of contracts and grants, research and technology, transfer activities and intellectual property rights.

to seven institutions," Lussier said. However, "what we're doing today is not sustainable."

The committee is expected to draft a proposal within two months.

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News brief

ASUO Student Senate makes budget adjustments

The ASUO Student Senate held its last meeting of the fiscal year Thursday, making routine transfers to balance budgets of student groups.

The senate heard special requests from the ADFC, Saferide, P&A, KWVA, ESA and DDS, as well as a grievance filed against

senate members.

Saferide requested a transfer of funds to cover a maintenance bill, office supplies bill and to prevent deficit rollover into the next fiscal year.

KWVA requested a transfer of funds to cover a debt in their cell phone account and to buy new supplies, such as new needles for turntables and a floppy disk.

The ESA requested a transfer of funds to cover a debt in its telephone account which resulted

when the former director accidentally ordered a phone line that wasn't budgeted.

DDS requested a transfer of funds to cover a debt in payroll that resulted from a miscommunication between current and former directors.

Senators also reiterated that their summer budget of \$5,000 is available to student groups for summer activities.

— Jan Montry

Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. Box 3159, Eugene OR 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon. The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices in Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union. The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

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