

Church Council Meeting Minutes Monday, February 23, 2009

Present: Mark Werrell, Michelle Koch, Ruth Oatman, Jerry Swalley, Mary Bell, Chelsea Spyles, Betsy Kent, David Palmer, Jim Faltot, Mary Haggard, Deede Cataldi, Bob Cronin, Peter Schmalz, Bill Clark, Ruth Nicholls, Kathy Werrell, Dayle Thorpe, Jane Savino, Roland Sharp, Donna Hitchner

Mark W. thanked those who were able to attend the Church Conference on 2/22/09.

Opening Devotion – Mark Werrell

Approval of 11/24/08 Church Council Meeting Minutes: The Church Council minutes were approved with modification. (Kathy Werrell moved; Ruth Oatman seconded)

Approval of 11/24/09 Charge Conference Minutes: The Charge Conference minutes were approved. (Jerry Swalley moved; Peter Schmalz seconded)

Approval of 1/26/09 Church Council Meeting Minutes: The Church Council minutes were approved with modification. (Roland Sharp moved; Ruth Oatman seconded)

Finance – Bob Cronin:

The Finance report was distributed. Expenses are being managed well. We are close but slightly less than forecast. Trustees' expenses are slightly higher than the expected, that is due to the heating costs and is expected to level off throughout the year.

Budget requests are due no later than April 30th.

BIA - Kathy Werrell:

Devotional booklets will be available for distribution on Ash Wednesday. They will also be distributed at the Sunday services. Others will be mailed to the shut-ins. A total of 300 booklets were printed. The printing costs were covered by an anonymous donor.

Prayer vigil lists will be distributed on March 15, 22, and 29.

Communications – Bill Clark:

The Communications team is looking for pictures for the website. Bill encouraged all teams to take pictures (preferably digital) at their events. The church has a digital camera to borrow. Send pictures to Bill C. and Donna H.

Pastor Comments – Jim Faltot:

Millcroft made a request for a local pastor to come in once a month to have lunch with residents from their particular congregation, and have a 1hr long presentation/discussion. Jim was the first to present. He presented today and combined it with the monthly communion service. He presented his program on angels. There was a very good turnout.

Jim has had two responses to project LZ Hope – Faith Under Fire. One is a seaman who served on a battleship in the South Pacific during WWII. Another is a person who served with the artillery in Vietnam.

There is another Code Purple night tonight. We are over double the number of nights from last year. There have been 23 nights including tonight. Currently, we have had 113 guests this winter. Please keep this ministry in your prayers. Our volunteers work very hard and just to a terrific job.

Pastor Comments – Mary Haggard:

Tomorrow night, 2/24 is the Pancake Supper. Please come out for pancakes.

Wesley Foundation shared their worship service at Aldersgate. They were well received. Brian Merritt is on the board of Wesley Foundation and is a member at Aldersgate. He made the contacts initially. In addition, Mary extended the offer at the district clergy gathering. Mary hopes to have them share their worship service at another church next semester.

Youth – Chelsea Spyres:

The babysitting fund raiser cleared \$217. We had 19 kids. Parents were very happy with the service provided. We will be looking to offer the services again. We see it also as a service to offer to parents where babysitting services are offered at very affordable rates.

The dance we had planned had to be canceled. We did not have enough ticket sales to pay the DJ. We will look to have something in the fall as a back to school event and it will be more casual.

We will be having a Lock In.

Our bake sale is scheduled for Palm Sunday.

Stock sales will begin after Easter and run into May.

Music – Betsy Kent:

The Music and Art series will be held in March. Betsy strongly encouraged people to attend and to invite others to come. David suggested that Betsy email a soft copy of the flyer to the district office so they could send it out to other churches.

Congregational Care – Ruth Oatman:

We held the Compassion in Action class. This was a two session class for care givers. It went very well. There were 6 participants. There were others who expressed interest but could not come at the scheduled time. We will likely offer it again, timing to be determined.

SPRC – Jerry Swalley:

No report.

Trustees – Peter Schmalz:

We received an early draft version of the building assessment report. The full report is expected in March.

The Memorial Fund will be used to provide bibles for the 3rd graders this year. There are 27 3rd graders this year.

Children and Family Ministries – Mary Bell:

The Lock-In was a blast. 13 signed up and 18 showed up.

We are taking a different approach with VBS. We will have VBS during the Sunday school program for the summer during the 9:30-10:30 timeframe. It will start on June 7 and continue through the summer with the exception of 7/5 and 8/16. We are hoping it will make it easier for parents to bring their kids.

Adult Ministries – Donna Hitchner:

We have three Lenten offerings. The class on Reconnecting a Wesleyan study begins tomorrow. The Encountering Pharaoh study begins next Monday. Revealing the Divine is a study that will occur weekly on Wednesdays following the Taize service.

UMW – Jane Savino:

Jane thanked everyone for supporting the soup sale.

Jane shared that she has seen other churches communicate their Connectional Ministries expense to their congregation on a per person basis, which might inspire people to want to give to cover more of the Connectional Ministries expense. Kathy will take the suggestion back to BIA.

Jane also asked if anyone could see that Ann Frazee has transportation to any of the Music and Arts series Harps concert.

Library – Ruth Nicholls:

We are planning the spring book sale. We are waiting on dates from the supplier.

We have ordered the young reader's version and picture book version of the book "Three Cups of Tea".

Membership – Dayle Thorpe:

Our meeting will be held tomorrow night.

Barbara Bettler has been responsible for shepherding. She will be stepping out of that role and we need someone to replace her. Diane Smith has agreed to work on getting Sheppards for the upcoming membership class.

Lay Leadership – Michelle Koch:

No report.

Worship – Roland Sharp:

Taize services will occur every Wednesday through Lent.

We will have our God Powered series on March 15, 22, & 29. We are working with BIA.

There will be services throughout Holy week from Palm Sunday through Easter. We encourage people to attend. We will have the Maundy Thursday service with a very special communion service. We always receive very positive feedback on that service. We will again have a special program on Good Friday. There will be a dramatic reading at the Good Friday service.

The God Powered series will continue again after Easter.

April 19 is the Ministry Fair.

April 26 is Pledge Sunday.

Pastor Comments – David Palmer:

Yesterday at the Church Conference we adopted the new Welcoming Statement. We need to help people get comfortable with that decision.

David distributed a graph on "Adoption of innovation over time" from the book "Diffusion of Innovations" by Everett Rogers. David made a minor change where he split 'Conscientious Rejecters' (at 16%) into Conscientious Objectors (12%) and Conscientious Rejecters (4%).

In terms of church life the Early Majority and Late Majority are often the silent people. You don't hear them speak much in favor or against something. David was pleased that we have Conscientious Objectors. They were at the Open Forum. That was a great Sunday afternoon.

They were at the church conference yesterday. He was glad that the first vote to stop discussion failed. We need to be able to hear people and listen to each other. There is work to be done to help people get a sense of this and be able to live with it. We also need to make sure that those who felt out of their own conscience that they needed to stand against the Welcoming Statement realize that they are loved, welcome and wanted here. He put the Conscientious Rejecters in because regardless of how things go there will be a group that just cannot abide by the decision and will choose to leave. The objective is to keep that number as small as possible.

We had someone call first thing this morning that asked what the vote was and indicated they would be looking for another church and hung up without identifying themselves. David also shared that there are other people who are looking at it the other way and are thinking of making this their church. We can't count numbers of who is leaving and who is coming, but we need to be about reaching out and making everybody feel welcome, appreciated and respected.

David asked that we all think about what we can do or say to make people who were conscientious objectors or rejecters feel better about the decision. If we begin to get a handle on this we may be able to move forward all together. David was pleased with all the voices who spoke. He was grateful for everyone who spoke and it is good that we can have that open discourse and share.

Roland made two observations. He commented that it was the most fully attended Charge or Church Conference he had been to. It was good to see the interest among the members. He also commented that it was encouraging that the ultimate outcome gave a reflection that we, as the leadership, are representative of and aligned with the congregation.

Reminders:

- Budget Requests due 4/30
- There is still time to join the 3 Lenten studies. The signup sheets are in the main office.
- Jim reminded that the Lenten Offering will go to Habitat to help with our 5yr commitment.
- The next confirmation class starts Sunday. Please keep in mind that they will need mission hours.
- If anyone has something for the lighted display please see Ruth Nichols.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is Monday April 27, 2009 at 7:00pm. There is no meeting in March.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Koch
NUMC Council Secretary