

Newark United Methodist Church Council Meeting Minutes Monday, November 23, 2009

Present: Sue Symes, Ruth Oatman, Pete Schmalz, Bill Clark, Dayle Thorpe, Mary Hudson, Melva Sheehand, Roland Sharp, Betsy Kent, Deede Cataldi, Jerry Swalley, Donna Hitchner, Haig Stubblebine, Jane Savino, Jim Faltot, Kelly Stoneman, Michelle Koch, Mary Haggard, Darrell Sparks, Ruth Nicholls, Kathy Werrell, Rev. David Palmer

Opening Prayer – Kelly Stoneman:

Approval of 10/26/09 Church Council Meeting Minutes: The Church Council minutes were approved. Ruth Oatman moved; Sue Symes seconded

Pastor Comments – Jim Faltot: The Inter-faith Thanksgiving service will be held on 11/24 at Temple Beth El.

David Palmer: The research is done for David's D Min. David expressed his appreciation and thanks for all the responses. One of the things that came out of all of this was for us as a church to think about what we need to put in place to be able to offer help to our own members who are in need. We often assume that the person sitting next to us is doing ok. We often do not have good ways to help people talk and share therefore we do not always know what is going on in their lives. Our own members may be struggling a lot more than we realize.

David is eternally grateful for a marvelous staff who are willing to come in on their day off or work overtime.

Mary Haggard: Last week Mary was in Dallas with 5 of our young people for "Exploration 2009". They had a great time and learned a lot. Mary was glad that she was there with them to field questions. There were over 500 participants. 300 of them were in varying leadership positions. All the small group leaders were seminarians. The feedback was that most of the growth and learning came from the small groups. There are good things going on in the Methodist Church. 170 of the 500 felt a call to ministry. 95 said they do not feel call to the ordained ministry. 130 were unsure. All 5 felt the weekend was helpful. This forum is held every 2-3 years at different locations.

The flat screen TV and DVD player was stolen from the Wesley Lounge on Wednesday morning. We did get the thief on camera. Be sure to lock your cars in the parking lot. The same person was seen in the parking lot checking car doors.

Everyone in Wesley Foundation got in the picture for the directory.

Charter for Compassion – David Palmer:

In February 2008, Karen Armstrong won the TED Prize and wished for help in creating, launching and propagating the Charter for Compassion. The Charter for Compassion is a cooperative effort to restore not only compassionate thinking but, more important, compassionate action to the center of religious, moral and political life. Compassion is the principled determination to put ourselves in the shoes of the other, and lies at the heart of all religious and ethical systems.

Karen is a former Roman Catholic nun who left a British convent to pursue a degree in modern literature at Oxford. She has written more than 20 books around the ideas of what Islam, Judaism and Christianity have in common, and around their effect on world events, including the magisterial A History of God and Holy War: The Crusades and Their Impact on Today's World.

TED stands for Technology, Entertainment, Design. It is an annual conference which brings together the world's most fascinating thinkers and doers, who are challenged to give the talk of their lives (in 18

minutes). TED.com makes the best talks and performances, the ideas worth spreading, from TED available to the public, for free.

This went online on November 12, 2009.

The TED Prize is designed to leverage the TED Community's exceptional array of talent and resources. It is awarded annually to three exceptional individuals who each receive \$100,000 and, much more important, the granting of "One Wish to Change the World."

David played the video and shared a copy of the Charter.

The Charter For Compassion:

"The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honour the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.

It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others—even our enemies—is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.

We therefore call upon all men and women ~ to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion ~ to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate ~ to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures ~ to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity ~ to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings—even those regarded as enemies.

We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community."

David asked that we consider entertaining a motion to post this on the website. David encouraged everyone to pass it along. His hope is that, as a congregation, we would take an action to have it on the website to show that we understand and we try to live this way. We may not do it perfectly but we are trying to move in this direction to embody compassion.

Darryl suggested that we put it on our Facebook page also.

Sue commented that she considered herself a compassionate person but listening to the Charter made her think of where she could be more compassionate. Other comments echo'd that sentiment that witnessing this may help people who are more visual the time to absorb it.

There were questions in the room about what criteria do we use for putting things on the website. Why put this on the website vs sending it out. It was mentioned that 70% people find their new church online. This would say something about this church. It would identify this church as compassionate. Jim noted that people would be surprised by how many people in the New Member classes found our church

online. The website can be one channel for sharing this. We can also share it with our friends and families. It is not an either or.

Kathy moved to suspend the practice of waiting a month to vote on a motion. Darryl 2nd the motion. The motion to suspend the practice passed by unanimous vote.

Jane supported putting the Charter on the website but was not supportive of affirming it. She suggested waiting to see how people in the church react to it and get feedback. Then we can vote on affirming it at another meeting.

Haig moved to put the Charter on the website and Facebook page.

Roland 2nd the motion. It passed by unanimous vote. The Charter for Compassion will appear on the website and on the Church's Facebook page.

Congregational Care – Ruth Oatman:

Mark Werrell and Ruth will be facilitating a Stephen Minister information sharing meeting in December. We are confident we will have members for a class.

Inclusiveness Team – Sue Symes:

Over 284 people have taken pictures for the directory. We have another session on 12/21. There are 37 people scheduled for 12/21. Sue asked if we should also have a session on 12/22. She would like to have over 300 pictures. Feedback indicated that as long as people sign up to come, have the session.

Special Thanks to Sue for all of her hard work coordinating the directory photo sessions and all the planning that went into this project. We are thankful for your talents and diligence on the directory. Also, congratulations on exceeding your goal!!! Great Job!! Thank You!!

BIA – Kathy Werrell:

We would like to work with the Health Team to have a Heart Healthy Pot Luck supper in February. This is a way to get different small groups working together.

We would like to have a Pastor's Jeopardy game. We were thinking of combining it with a pot luck or something like that. February 14th was suggested as a possible date. Kathy will follow up with Danette to get it scheduled.

Nominations and Leadership Development – Michelle Koch:

We continue to try to match people with the open spots across the various teams. We believe we have someone for Finance. We continue to make progress.

We did receive a request to find someone to help with Shepherds. In the interim, it was suggested that the role be rotated among the committee members. Dayle indicated that Diane Smith has a list of people who would be interested in being Shepherd. She just needs someone to lead to find the matches. The next New Member classes are not until April so we have some time.

We received the request for help in the Library and will work to identify people for those roles.

Youth Council – Mary Haggard:

Youth Sunday got moved from May to February and we are in the writing process. Please keep the youth in your prayers.

The Youth are already starting to sell stock. We are looking to find buyers outside of the congregation first. The congregation supports the Youth in so many other ways. The Sr High will be going to Maine and the Jr High will be going to Ocean Grove, New Jersey.

You will soon see information for the January 31st Chili Cook-off. Mary already has two judges.

Library – Ruth Nichols:

We had the book fair but it produced only about a 1/3 of what we made last year. People were generous with their donations for the used books. We will end up with more money from the used books than from the book fair. We are also blessed with book donations so we have not had to buy any books.

United Methodist Women – Jane Savino:

Thanks for bringing calendars. Thank you for buying pecans.

United Methodist Men – Haige Stubblebine:

Three of the Wesley students spoke about their weekend in Dallas at the Men's Breakfast. They confirmed what Mary had said about feeling confused, meaning they really had to think about things.

Children & Family Ministries – Donna Hitchner:

Advent Festival Friday Dec. 4th. All are invited to carol.

Advent booklets will be distributed at Sunday School. We will have one room for Sunday school for k-6 on 12/27. The pre-school will be in a separate room.

Thanks for supporting the G.R.E.E.N. Team fundraiser, where \$180 was raised to purchase turkeys for the baskets.

SPRC – David Palmer:

Rich Lewis has tendered his resignation. His last Sunday will be 12/27. We have another organist identified. Rich is moving to Ohio.

Finance – Deede Cataldi:

Funds are tight. We are hoping for a strong December.

Music – Betsy Kent:

Dec 20 is the Christmas Concert at 3pm. It will feature the children's choir, First State Ringers, Chancel Choir and a brass quartet. A reception will follow where we will thank Rich for his work here.

Wesley Foundation – Darryl Sparks:

Wesley Foundation is busting at the seams. Sunday mornings there is barely any seating. Thursday evening bible study has 24-25 coming on a regular basis. We are thankful for Brad who is an intern from Lancaster theology seminary. He will be with us through the spring.

This will be Darryl's last meeting for a long time, as he will be going back to school and attending Monday night classes. The board decided to merge Becky Byrd and Darryl's positions into co-chairs. Becky will be here when she can make it. Mary will speak for Wesley when Becky cannot be here.

Worship – Roland Sharp:

Advent is upon us. Pastors will be presenting a series of sermons on the Graces.

Taize will be weekly through Advent starting the first Wed. A soup and bread fellowship will be held in Heritage Hall at 5:30. We will anticipate the sermon each week and discuss how that type of grace has operated in our own lives.

We will have the Blue Christmas service on 12/13 at 3pm.

On 12/24 we will have the Children's service at 4pm, Son Spirit at 7pm, Chancel Choir at 9pm and Youth & Alumnae at 11pm.

Lay Leaders – Melva Sheehan:

The Lay Leaders assisted on All Saints Sunday.

We had some marvelous speakers on Laity Sunday.

Outreach – Mary Hudson:

All of the angels were taken. We do plan on giving a grocery card to each family. We have 21 families this year. There are still gift cards to be bought.

Outreach will have a pot luck on January 10 to raise our awareness of Christians in Palestine.

Membership - Dayle Thorpe:

We do have the new member bulletin board up. We just need to add the children's names.

We are working on recognizing our long term members on April 25. In 2010, we will have 58 people who will have 50 or more years of membership in this church. It is going to be one exciting day. We will recognize them in worship and have a special after church reception.

Trustees – Peter Schmalz:

Kitchen renovations are underway.

Last meeting you received a report on Renewing Our Foundation. Thanks for giving us your ideas. We welcome you to submit them if you haven't already.

In the past, we have made incremental security improvements. With the recent robbery, we will be reassessing that and determining what more we need to do.

Communications -:

We are still assessing calendaring software.

All of the offerings at the church have been sent to the newspapers.

New Wesley Board Members – Darryl Sparks:

Darryl presented two new board members Mark Self and Terry Prettyman. Board Members were approved unanimously.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 25, 2010 at 7:00pm. This meeting will be a planning meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Koch
NUMC Council Secretary