

Newark United Methodist Church Council Meeting Minutes Monday, February 22, 2010

Present: Ruth Oatman, Dayle Thorpe, Mary Hudson, Roland Sharp, Betsy Kent, Deede Cataldi, Jerry Swalley, Donna Hitchner, Jane Savino, Jim Faltot, Kelly Stoneman, Michelle Koch, Kathy Werrell, David Palmer, Kelly Stoneman, Marietta Garrett, Darrell Piatt, Chelsea Spyres, Deede Cataldi, Diane Brahy, Mary Bell, Rebecca Byrd

Opening Prayer – Kelly Stoneman:

Approval of 11/23/09 Church Council Meeting Minutes: The Church Council minutes were approved. Ruth Oatman moved; Roland Sharp seconded

Pastor Comments – Mary Haggard traveled to Texas on Sunday for her grandmother's funeral. She will return on Thursday. We will keep her in our prayers.

Jim Faltot: Jim encouraged everyone to consider adopting the spiritual discipline of Taize throughout Lent. Taize will occur the next 5 Wednesdays. We will not have Taize during Holy Week.

David Palmer: The staff is discussing a recycling program that pays for recycled electronics.

David shared some interesting statistics. Information doubles periodically. It is expected to double every 72 hours this year. Sixty five percent of today's pre-schoolers will work in a job that does not exist today. Roughly 1 million new websites are created daily.

Nine people have indicated that they are willing to be part of the group that will be casting a vision. They will not create the vision but they will work the process that will engage the congregation to begin to form a vision. Not a strategic plan. It will guide and direct us around what we want to do with that vision. The team will be using the book "Church Unique" as a reference. The group starts next week.

David shared some excerpts from the book. It referred to "think holes" where churches get stuck or get the vision off track. He refers to the ministry tread mill. The busyness of ministry creates a progressively irreversible hurriedness in the leader's life and they cannot take the time necessary to discern the culture and DNA of the church. The book also indicated that this process takes time. There is no promise when it will be done. It will focus on defining who we are, what we value and what is important. This team will discern the feedback and information from the congregation to help define the vision.

Nomination & Leadership Development – David Palmer

The team is reviewing the roster and looking to fill the open spots.

Library – Marietta Garrett

We are still looking for people to take over the library. David indicated that this was discussed at the last Nominations & Leadership Development meeting.

Outreach – Mary Hudson:

2094 pairs of shoes were donated for Haiti. Our participation in the CROP Walk yielded the most dollars and the largest number of walkers. The money raised went to Church World Service. This is a Methodist outreach that was already on the ground working in Haiti and they were one of the first groups on the ground to support the Haitian people.

The Lenten offering will go to the Empowerment Center. The Center's client base is increasing. Last year ~\$19k were donated to support the Empowerment Center. These funds came from the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. We have had 27 Code Purple nights and 194 sanctuary nights. There appear to be more men this year and have up to 10 people on Code Purple nights.

Communications – Darrell Piatt:

The team would like to help other committee with developing better communication by providing guidelines, identifying audiences, and providing a framework.

The team is also focused on two main areas for the website. 1) structure and content 2) refreshing the technology.

UMW – Jane Savino:

Jane expressed thanks to those who bought the soup package mix. UMW is looking forward to being able to use the renovated kitchen for the next soup sale.

Jane also brought up concern about the parking situation and asked if there was something that could be done. She suggested possibly towing some of the cars that are taking the spots and the drivers are not at a church-related activity. David and Deede remarked that it really takes someone being in the parking lot to monitor beginning around 4pm. Overnight parkers do not seem to be a problem. However, we have had issues with parking for the volunteers coming to support the Code Purple nights, and regular inconveniences for people coming for meetings and studies. David also suggested that we think of alternatives like meeting at people's homes or at a coffee shop or other public place that has free parking. Deede said that she welcomes volunteers to help monitor the lot. She can easily train them.

Worship – Roland Sharp:

The 8am service was held one Sunday in the chapel due to a heating issue. There was a lot of positive feedback indicating that people liked the intimate setting. The worship team is trying out some ways to make the sanctuary a more intimate setting for the 8am service. They will also conduct more services in the chapel.

Wesley Foundation – Rebecca Byrd:

The weather was a factor for the Super Bowl Sub Sales.

Wesley hosted the traditional Shrove Tuesday pancake supper.

Wesley students are in the process of raising funds for their mission trip. The trip will be Easter week. The group will focus on helping churches in the conference with repairs.

Other council members observed great participation from the Wesley students at the Ash Wednesday service, Son Spirit and bible study. Rebecca indicated that they had been averaging 30 people at their weekly bible study. The group was split into two groups so there could be more individual participation.

BIA – Kathy Werrell:

Kathy thanked those who participated in the Heart Healthy pot luck and stayed for the Jeopardy game. She also thanked the pastors for their participation.

Yesterday a U of D student from the nutrition club came to speak about nutrition. Seven people attended.

BIA is now gearing up for the pledge drive.

Sue is in the process of putting together the Business Directory.

The Prayer Vigil will run from 8pm on Fri until 3pm on Saturday. People will pick times to pray at home. BIA will provide the prayer list and suggestions for reaching out to people.

Kitchen – Deede Cataldi:

The kitchen renovations are 90% complete. There are some items that are needed for the kitchen. We will be having a shower for the kitchen and may even register so folks know the needs.

Deede shared the Kitchen Policy.

Membership – Dayle Thorpe:

The committee's quarterly meeting is tomorrow night. Cathy Drew agreed to take on the shepherding role.

Adult Ministries – Donna Hitchner:

The WABS are meeting during Lent and will be using the book "A Clearing Season".

Jim's study will soon be starting which will focus on the 7 churches of Revelation.

On 3/20 there will be a Chick Flick matinee which will feature "Agnes of God".

Children's Ministry – Diane Brahy & Mary Bell:

G.R.E.E.N. team created 50 more go bags.

This Friday night will be the re-scheduled movie night featuring Night at the Museum II.

Look for G.R.E.E.N. teamers selling See's candy as their fundraiser to raise money for camp. There are a number of requests for full funding for the camp week (\$350).

SPRC – no report

Congregational Care – Ruth Oatman:

We have 7 people in training for Stephen Ministers.

Music – Betsy Kent:

George Kirk Concert Series. On 3/17 we will host the Maryland Boys Choir. They have invited our children to sing with them. There will be 50 boys in the choir 9-19 yrs old. We will be serving dinner to the boys. We will also have Rachel McClare perform a concert. She is now getting her Masters in Music and the flute. There will be a reception following. The final in the concert series will be an organ recital.

Finance – David Palmer:

We are black for the first half of the fiscal year but December was low in comparison to other years. There is a concern that we will not meet the full budget needs for the fiscal year. Finance will be providing an update this coming Sunday during Minute for Missions.

We had fewer pledges this year but more dollars pledged. We are seeing a great percentage of some payment and people are holding to their pledge commitment.

Trustees – Deede Cataldi:

There was not a meeting in February. Snow removal was expensive. Thanks to the Pre-school for assisting with the snow removal from the spaces off of Delaware Ave.

Youth:

The Youth had a phenomenal and moving Youth Sunday.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 22, 2010 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Koch
NUMC Council Secretary