

Newark United Methodist Church Council Meeting Minutes Monday, August 24, 2009

Present: Kelly Stoneman, Michelle Koch, Ruth Oatman, Mary Bell, Betsy Kent, Deede Cataldi, Bill Clark, Kathy Werrell, Mary Hudson, Jane Savino, Donna Hitchner, Diane Brahy, Rebecca Byrd, Mary Haggard, Dayle Thorpe, Sue Symes, Rev. David Palmer

Opening Prayer – Kelly Stoneman:

Reviewed May Planning Ideas:

David just wanted to touch base with the teams regarding the ideas that were discussed in the May Planning session.

Name tags – The U of D students come back this coming week. This coming Sunday we will have name tags for everyone. They will be used during and at the end of the sermon. Those who are U of D alumnae should indicate so on the name tag.

Wesley Foundation will be having their traditional breakfast for new students on Sunday.

Dayle Thorpe mentioned a number of things that the Membership team is working on. Three things from the planning session are getting traction.

1) Meeters & Greeters – Three people have stepped up to try to organize the meeters and greeters. We will be planning for meeters who roam the church and those who can direct people to assist them with where to go. David mentioned that it would be important to have meeters and roamers through the month of September to really cover the places where people come in. David suggested that we indicate on the name tag that the meeter is a person that can field questions. Betsy K. suggested leveraging the choir as extra meeters the next 2 Sundays 30th & 6th, since they are not singing. Mary H. said that some of the Wesley folks will be at the service to help meet the students. Sue Symes will be available to greet in the parking lot on 8/30.

2) Recognizing Long-term Members – We have some ideas about how to recognize people without spending a lot of money. We talked about recognizing those people during fellowship time with posters with pictures and balloons to make it a festive thing.

3) New Member Orientation – We got some suggestions to have it earlier in the day and provide lunch. Marina is going to contact Mary Bell about ordering lunch. We plan on displaying pictures of new members.

Sue will send Deede the signage verbiage for the 1st Time Visitor parking signs to take to Trustees.

First week on of Sept is Sunday School registration in Heritage Hall. It would be helpful to have an easy way to direct people to the classes. We could have someone with a clipboard with class information roaming to assist. We could also indicate different classrooms with different colored balloons on 9/13 for the start of classes.

Church Directory – Sue S. is coordinating the activities. Olan Mills will be scheduling time for pictures Nov. 9, 10, 11 and Nov. 18-21 (3-9:30pm and on the 21st 10am-5pm). The sessions are timed so that family portraits are deliverable for Christmas. There will only be online registration. There will be an email campaign to communicate the activities, dates and times. We want to be able to have a link to registration on the NUMC website. We need tech savvy people to help with registration on Sunday mornings. It was suggested that some of our youth may be good candidates for helping. There will not be a hard push to purchase the pictures. Our emphasis will be on getting the directory picture taken. The directory will be 8x8. Ruth reminded that we need to use the right list for the full directory listing in the

back. The last time the wrong list was used and some people not included. Sue wants to get as many people in the directory as possible. If people cannot make the sessions, Sue will take other pictures or go out to folks to take pictures. Those pictures will get integrated in the back.

Communications put a link to The Upper Room on the NUMC website.

Business Directory - BIA is working on a concept for a Business Directory. The initial intent was to have a directory available to the congregation showcasing the services and skill of congregation members who are business owners. BIA was considering opening it up to others who we know are Christians with small businesses. They had also considered selling space to the local small businesses. If we did this we could identify members with a "Member Since" tag. The directory would be available online. Youth could also post ads with but we would not post youth ads online. It may be good to indicate the skills and age of the youth (i.e. Babysitter, 17yrs old, Red Cross certified) We would want to indicate the age of the youth. We thought of charging youth \$2 and church members \$5. The cost is to cover the printing costs. Sue S suggested they reassess the estimated cost to produce the directory. The intent was to make these available at the church. The intent was not to mail them.

After much dialogue, the direction is to create the Business Directory and include congregation members only, to start. We will reassess the cost and factor that in. We will not display youth ads online. The youth who want to place ads need to indicate their age. Non-youth would have the option of posting it on the website. It will be a 2010 directory so that we have all fall to gather ads.

Mugs – We are likely to have many new visitors over the next few weeks. We are starting to run low on mugs. We do have cards, magnets and cookies. We are not sure if we will order more mugs. We expected them to last longer. The mugs cost \$40 for approximately 144. Sue S. will explore getting a better price for mugs. They are a good give-away for first time visitors.

Approval of 6/22/09 Church Council Meeting Minutes: The Church Council minutes were approved. (Ruth Oatman moved; Kathy Werrell seconded)

Pastor Comments – David Palmer: Jim came through his biopsy well. David spoke to him on Saturday and there was a dramatic improvement and energy in his voice.

David's DMin preparation this fall will include 8 sermons. He needs to collect a lot of feedback. All 8 will be done in SonSpirit. Some will happen in the liturgical setting. However, they involve "embedded ritualizations" where people are asked to get up and move around, we will not be doing that in the liturgical services on a regular basis. They will be done between now and Thanksgiving. The theme on 9/20 is sexual abuse. David is trying to arrange for counselors to be available. The first draft of David's thesis is due on Jan 2nd. As such, David has made a request of SPRC that he reduce his participation in various meetings this fall. He will be attending SPRC and Church Council.

Communications – Bill Clark:

Notification of our upcoming studies were sent to The News Journal and others. We have been publicizing the upcoming Communion Study, Writing workshops.

Confirmed we will be having Taize on 9/2.

United Methodist Women – Jane Savino:

UMW will be having a guest speaker at their next meeting on 9/8. A woman who worked with abused women in China will be sharing with us.

Congregational Care – Ruth Oatman:

Congregation Care continues to run well.

Outreach – Mary Hudson:

Outreach is proposing a partnership with the United States Census for the 2010 census. NUMC can support by: articles in Parish Notes, website, bulletin board, provide space for test taking, be a center to get out the word/give support to encourage folks to complete the questionnaire, participation in grant that advertise the coming census and encourage full participation. Outreach requested that a vote be taken at our next church council meeting on whether we want to participate and to what extent.

A potluck for Newark Empowerment Center and Code Purple will be held at Calvary Baptist Church on 9/10 at 6pm. Bring a dish to share as you are able. Marc, Mary and Bill will give reports.

Newark Empowerment Center will open for 5 afternoons per week beginning in September. Volunteers are needed to support the additional staff person to be assigned.

Outreach is proposing NUMC's participation in a nightly rotation woman's sanctuary pilot. Richard Waibel wrote that "The purpose of this communication is to seek your involvement to move this concept forward and seek approval for Newark UMC to become a participating church. The program will run from December 1 – April 1, 2010". Mary was asked for more information on the pilot which can be shared with the council. Mary did indicate that they are seeking 20 faith communities to participate. Outreach would like Council to consider this request and have further discussion and a vote at next council meeting.

The annual CROP walk will be on 10/4. All are encouraged to walk and support this cause. Last year's proceeds were down.

Finance – Deede Cataldi:

Deede relayed Howard's report. Thanks to the committees and staff for keeping last year's spending down. We closed the last fiscal year with an approximate \$6500-7000 deficit. We anticipate a better end of the calendar year. December tends to be twice as much as any other month but spending is even across the year.

Please remember to submit requests for funds for the Finance committee.

A new Kitchen Team was formed. We will be upgrading our kitchen thanks to a generous donation from a congregation member. Portia Loomis is leading the team. Tim is heavily involved. We are focusing on doing the essentials.

Youth – Mary Haggard:

Youth Council met and focused on defining who they are and how they will function.

We came up with our "5 Theological Rocks". There will be an article in Parish notes. God is the center rock.

Youth group starts the Sunday of Labor Day weekend. Many of the youth are around.

The stock dinner got pushed back to October. We are being intentional about having Jr High and Sr High together.

Wesley Foundation - Rebecca Byrd:

There is an expanded Breakfast Angels this coming Sunday. That has been advertised in all the information for the freshman. We do need one more egg casserole. We also have the traditional ice cream social in the afternoon.

Bible study and fellowship will start this week.

Our officers are coming in early this week on Thursday to help with planning the Fall schedule.

Our intern is starting next week. He is at Lancaster seminary. He is feeling a call to campus ministry. For his Field Ed, he requested to come here.

Music – Betsy Kent:

All the music activities are starting soon.

Bruce Cataldi is going to lead a group of adults who are interested in ringing hand bells for fun. They will meet on Wednesday nights.

Children and Family Ministries – Donna Hitchner & Diane Brahy:

VBS classroom time is ending. It went really well. This coming Sunday the children will sing the song they learned at VBS at the services. The G.R.E.E.N. Team volunteered 100+ hours for VBS. They were a big help.

G.R.E.E.N. Team & Sunday School – Mary Bell:

On Friday, we had Karaoke night.

Sunday School teacher training occurred this past Sunday.

Adult Ministries – Donna Hitchner:

Donna thanked Mary for her endorsement of the bible study offerings at Sunday's services. Many people had the listing of the offerings after the services.

Donna also thanked SPRC for allowing she and Mary Bell to attend a Children's Ministry Conference.

Membership - Dayle Thorpe:

Much of what was covered in the last Membership meetings were noted above in the activities outlined above as we reviewed the May planning activities.

BIA – Kathy Werrell:

BIA covered their main activities above (i.e. Business Directory).

Kathy reminded everyone to open meetings with prayer.

Nominations and Leadership Development – Michelle Koch:

No report. No meeting in July.

Reminders: We will use the first 30 minutes of the September meeting to address the two motions from Outreach. That will be followed by a planning meeting.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 28, 2009 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Koch
NUMC Council Secretary