

**Newark United Methodist Church
Proposed Church Council Meeting Minutes
Monday February 26, 2007**

Present: Mark Werrell, Michael Chorba, Chuck Mason, Bryan Everett, Ruth Oatman, Mary Haggard (late, upon arrival from downstate) , Kathy Werrell, Barbara Weaver, Mary Bell, Roland Roth, Dr. Jim Faltot, Mary Hudson, Pat McKeon, Erika Grabher, Jane Savino, Roland Sharp, Rev George Athill, Peter Schmalz. Ruth Oatman, and Kelly Stoneman

Teams not in attendance (as per 2006 Church Conference): Treasurer (report presented however), UMM, Youth Council (activities reported by Mary), Membership (activities reported by Kathy), SonSpirit Worship

Devotion in Prayer – Mark Werrell

Approval of 1/22 Minutes: The Church Council minutes for January 22, 2006 were approved (Roland Roth motioned, Mary Bell seconded)

Pastor Comments – Jim Faltot ; Jim explained David’s absence: he is conducting interviews of candidates for ordination in Rehobeth, one of whom is Mary Haggard. New member orientation was moved back a week due to weather; Team representatives are needed Sunday 3/11 from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. Taize’ Services begin 7pm Wednesday 2/28, continuing every Wednesday during Lent. A Taize’ service is “not for everybody, but for those to whom it speaks, it speaks deeply”.

Kathy Werrell mentioned, regarding the New member orientation, the new member form is being modified. Once those forms are received with interests of the new members **shepherds are needed** to mentor with them for six months.

Rev. George Athill was recognized and solicited for any pastoral comments, he had none but wanted instead to listen (which was the focus of Mark’s opening devotion).

Newark Nite Sat 6/2– Barbara Weaver (Witness Team)

The Witness Team would like to involve more Teams and proposed opening up the sanctuary for Newark Nite and bringing in a story teller. This would allow the public to see inside the church building, and we have plenty of space in the sanctuary. Their Team was very excited about it, she opened it up for discussion.

Everyone in Council seemed enthusiastic about the idea. Roland Roth opined that we could have “docents” to take folks on tour of the building (we have a book on its history); Kathy Werrell suggested opening the front Main Street doors; Erika Grabher suggested organ music between story telling sessions. Peter Schmalz will take the idea back to the Trustees to address any concern about people wandering unattended through the building – he believes it can be addressed and will look to gain a consensus from Trustees about it which would allow Witness to move forward. Mike Chorba mentioned anecdotally that in past Newark Nites with a monitor present the part of the building folks have been most interested in is the bathrooms.

2008 General Conference Representatives – Ruth Oatman

Ruth and Billy Cox have put their names into the pool of candidates to be chosen to attend General Conference in 2008 (in Ft. Worth, TX). At Annual Conference they need to show endorsement from Church Council. It is a huge commitment on their part, GC lasts 10 days and requires several weeks of preparation and several weeks of work afterwards. The General Conference is the only body that can speak for the United Methodist Church. About 6 from our conference attend, an equal number of laity and clergy. Jim Faltot pointed out that this fact is significant, clergy only has 50% representation at this highest level of the church.

Motion: To endorse Ruth Oatman and Billy Cox in their application as candidates to General Conference. The motion passed unanimously (Roland Sharp made the motion, Kathy W. seconded).

Committee Reports

Church Council – Mark Werrell reminded everyone of the rules and covenant of the meeting and agenda items (see January minutes). Roland Roth suggested an item be put in the Parish Notes, and asked if a reminder email be sent 7 days before the meeting for any agenda items. Rev. Athill later commented on this topic expressing concern about awareness about the Empowerment Center, and suggested that a communication about what transpired at Church Council be included in the Parish Notes. *[Editor's note, not part of the meeting: Michael Chorba will take responsibility for this – March Parish notes are already done but going forward I will create a short summary of the Council meeting using the minutes. I'll contact Michelle to see if it is feasible to have the minutes distributed before the 7th of the month, which is the Parish Notes deadline. Due to space issues only the most significant items will likely be mentioned, such as the agenda items and motions – hopefully committee report content is already in the Parish Notes. I will solicit feedback on this in May and see if there is a need to add anything to the Sunday bulletins.]*

Communications – Pat Mckeon reported she needs to get with Mike Chorba to determine where the Council minutes and agenda should be placed on the website. The Team has worked on:

- press releases for Taize service (and signage), Ash Wednesday announcements were in the newspaper, the Lenten gathering, special Easter services;
- they are working on publishing an addendum to the Church directory;
- **Radio Ministry needs support from Teams** (\$125 Sunday), businesses have been solicited, contact Deede Cataldi or Bill Clark, Jr. about the scheduled – related to that the Trustees are working on the poor quality of the music/choir on the radio; the microphones up by the choir don't seem to help.
- Web pages can be updated – contact the webmaster link on the site or Pat (pmkeon@comcast.net); Sermons are being put on the web but challenges exist: (a) can post the text, but preachers often stray from a printed text or only work from an outline, would **need a transcriber** to work from the audio file, (b) audio file posting presents technical challenges of locating the sermon within the entire service's audio – takes time- and limited space on the server makes audio files of every sermon impossible.

Mary Haggard at this point joined the meeting and shared that the answer was “Yes”! She was approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry to be recommended for commissioning at Annual Conference. (that's now Rev. Haggard folks !)

United Methodist Women – Jane Savino thanked all for supporting the soup sale

Education – Roland Roth reported that the Team was planning the Lenten gathering: crafts and adult things to do, for the entire church family, an all-church activity (not just parents and children). They have offered new adult class possibilities. The Vacation Bible School will be in the same format as last year. Mary Bell related that the GREEN team did a great job assisting in the Ash Wednesday service.

Trustees – Peter Schmalz had nothing to report.

Witness – Barbara Weaver reported that they were working on nametags for New members / shepherds.

Outreach - Mary Hudson reported on (1) Habitat for Humanity House, NUMC pledged \$25,000 over 5 years (\$5k /year) for a house, Jim and Mary attended the dedication of it. The family, Chanise and Jaya Cephas, will be on the prayer list. (2) Empowerment Center update- Monday 3/5 will be training day for volunteers in Mrs. Wilson's room (site of the EC); 3/12 1pm is opening day, will have bag lunches and hot coffee, volunteers from NUMC(as opposed to other coalition churches) will be helping. It is open Mon, Tues, Thurs (to fill need, Tues Hope Dinig Room is closed, Thurs the public library is closed). People served will be served for the long term, data will be collected, it's a hand up (not hand out); the EC made a commitment of \$14,000 (2/20), NUMC sent a check for \$4,000 to help support. The Pilot will be 6 months in duration. Mrs. Wilson's Bible

Class is excited about their space being used in this way, commented “Mrs. Wilson would be proud.”

Worship – Roland Sharp invited us all to experience the Taize’ service. For Holy week they were moving to the more traditional sequence of Passion week, leaving Palm Sunday as Palm Sunday only with the Passion in the mid-week services: Maundy Thursday in the round, and Good Friday tenebrae service of the seven last words. Have implemented leaving sins literally at the cross into Sunday services.

Lay Leader – Erika Grabher shared that the Lay Leaders meet quarterly to brainstorm, and will begin sharing those discussions in the Parish notes.

Lay Leadership Team – Kathy Werrell reported they created a Membership Team, and one of the sub-teams is focused on college students, not just UD or Wesley Foundation folks but also high school seniors becoming freshmen for instance. The sub-team is lead by Becky Byrd and Carol Sue McBride. Also for first time guest they have created special gifts (mugs, homemade cookies, prepaid postage postcards) and will have an announcement made during worship for the guests to see ushers to receive this.

Finance - Chuck Mason shared the Treasurer’s and Financial Secretary’s Report noting that (a) January’s income included large gifts of stock, (b) last year ended in a surplus, and (c) for the first time in over 10-15 years – maybe longer – our **Total Cash at then End of the Month exceeds the Total amount in our Designated funds.** *[Editor’s note: This means that none of the designated funds are being used for church operations as of January. In practical terms it was not a huge issue – unless efforts to spend all the designated funds were mounted at once that money could be temporarily utilized for church operations. However from an ethical perspective it did not sit well with many that funds specifically given for designated purposes were “appropriated” in this manner, even if only temporarily. Praise be to God, this church family and the Finance Team for this accomplishment!]*

Staff Parish Relations – Kelly Stoneman reported they agreed to sponsor a radio broadcast; Staff development submitted registrations for conferences, based on last Council meeting’s decision; a part-time music position has been created 20 hours/week to assist Betsy Kent, the position was posted on the website and 4 applicants will be interviewed (2 from within our church family, 2 not).

Believers in Action – Brian Everett had nothing to report

Congregational Care – Ruth Oatman reported that they meet quarterly; Carol Thompson has been coordinating hospital visitation, and Rev. Athill has visited nursing homes aside from those serving communion (the Eucharistic ministers). Jim mentioned he has heard gratitude expressed from those whom Rev. Athill visits. Card ministry is active, sending cards on the one year anniversary of the death of a loved one.

Youth – Mary Haggard reported that the Friday night- Saturday Youth Famine went very well, it was the first time it had been done here. **The Youth Mission Trip stock sale will open soon;** St. Patrick’s Day dinner and movie is planned, kids downstairs and a separate movie (‘The Quiet Man’) upstairs for adults; gearing up for Youth Sunday; March 11th 7pm the Ladysmith Black Mambazo group is performing at the Grand Opera House in Wilmington, group tickets for \$31 each have been purchased, some still available, contact Mary; will leave church parking lot at 6 pm (this is the same Sunday Team members may already be at church for the New members class).

Closing Prayer – Ruth Oatman

Committee Representation at Church Council Meetings: Please be sure to send a representative in the event that Committee Chairpersons cannot attend.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is Monday, March 26, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Michael Chorba NUMC Council Co-Chair