

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

Present: Michael Chorba, Deede Cataldi, Chuck Mason, Rev. David Palmer, Kelly Stoneman, Ruth Oatman, Betsy Kent, Mary Haggard, Barbara Weaver, Mary Bell, Roland Roth, Dr. Jim Faltot, Mary Hudson, Lys Murray, Tom Bailey, Gail Haberkost, Mark Deshon

Devotion in Prayer – Michael Chorba

Approval of 2/26 Minutes: The Church Council minutes for February 26, 2007 were approved with modification. (Ruth Oatman motioned, Chuck Mason seconded)

Church Council Meeting – Prototype Webpage – Michael Chorba included a sample of the page. Ruth noted that Congregational Care is not listed under Church Ministries. It was also noted that Tender Loving Christians should appear under Congregational Care.

Pastor Comments – David Palmer & Jim Faltot:

Jim commented on his excitement regarding the Empowerment Center and the Taize service.

David shared that he was accepted into the program at the Association of Chicago Theological Schools. Finance noticed that the giving was down significantly in February. Worship attendance is down from last year which was surprising. Attendance is not going up like he would see it. David expressed his gratitude for the responses he received from members of the church regarding his divorce. David has a retired clergy-person and his wife as well as three other couples that are interested in getting involved in the Marriage Ministry. A handful of people expressed interest in the Intro to Christianity. David was impressed with the Health Team's activities and accomplishments.

Chocolatefest – Mary Bell:

Mary suggested that the church sponsor a Chocolatefest during the 250th Birthday of Newark in 2008 with the intent to bring people into the church for fellowship. Next year in April Newark will be celebrating its 250th anniversary. We will be hosting a Thursday night inter-faith celebration service on April 10, 2008. There are activities on Friday and a parade on Saturday. Mary indicated that it will take several committees to work on the Chocolatefest. It will take the whole church family to be behind it. We will need to coordinate with the city's schedule of events.

Lys Murray volunteered as a member of the Communications Team. She will attempt to get more information from the city.

Needs-Oriented Evangelism –

Barbara Chamberlain had a great summary on the subject in last month's Parish Notes. The Health team took the post-its from the workshops and categorized it into common themes. The summary identified common themes including; comfort zone, not being equipped, not a church priority, reluctance, fear, need for training, lack of definition on needs-oriented evangelism.

One of the things that are disturbing to the Health team is the lack of participation in the class David is teaching.

New Committee Appointments to be Affirmed – Michael Chorba on behalf of Kathy Werrell:

John Petty (incoming new member!) - Outreach Team
Mike Harmer - BIA
Susan Tretta - Committee on Lay Leadership
Kathy Shearer - Outreach
Marilyn Maurer - Lay Member to Annual Conference representative on SPRC
Barbara Lawrence & Grace Gosnay have agreed to co-chair the Witness Team through the end of the year, as Barbara Weaver steps down from that role where she has served so very well.
Becky Stauffer - Youth Representative on the Congregational Care Team
Anne McMillan - First person on the newly forming "Hospitality/Social Team" - a sub-team of the Membership Committee (actual sub-team's name to be determined!)
Bill Cox - our fourth Lay Leader, who will also be the Lay Leader representative on the Finance Team

Roland Roth motioned to affirm the candidates, Mary Hudson seconded

Decision: All candidates affirmed.

Lay Speakers:

Michael Chorba attended the class and found it a very rewarding experience. Michael recognized Mark Deshon as a certified Lay Speaker.

Covenant Discipleship - Mark Deshon:

Mark brought forth a request for Council to consider support for establishing a strategy for implementing Covenant Discipleship (CD) groups church-wide. The thought would be to have a speaker come in who is intimately involved with the program, possibly September 23 to help kick this off.

We have two pilots going on right now. There are eight people are involved. Each has agreed to become a class leader or a CD leader for a new group.

CD will not be for everyone. It is something that people commit seriously to, to meet once a week and to be committed to a covenant that the group agrees to. It helps people live out their discipleship. There are guidelines for making a covenant which include acts of compassion, justice, mercy, and devotion. Two are to be individual and others to be corporate. The covenant is not set in stone it can change over time but all must agree.

Church Conference – Proposed Team Church in Society:

Michael wanted to bring attention to the proposed team so that people prayerfully consider it.

Committee Reports:

Witness – Barbara Weaver:

Newark Nite - The team suggested a story time instead of a story teller. The committee is looking for those who could share their gift of story telling. The focus will be on young people. The story time will alternate with SonSpirit.

Christian Education Staff - Mary Bell:

Buy candy to send the kids to camp. Sunday school is going well.

Youth – Mary Haggard:

April 19 will be the fund raiser at California Tortilla. The secret word will be “Amazing”.

The youth are busy with rehearsing for Youth Sunday. There have been some casting changes.

There are 46 kids signed up for the mission trips.

Christian Education – Roland Roth:

The Lenten gathering was canceled due to lack of participation.

The workshop to review education material was successful. The team is looking for effective and efficient ways to offer education.

Outreach – Mary Hudson:

The Empowerment Center opened on March 12. There were 7 clients served on the first day. There were 14 clients served on the fourth day. As of the end of last week, there were 45 seen at the Empowerment Center. Twenty-eight were first timers. There are volunteers from various faith communities.

The team wants to have an inter-faith mission dinner which will include a report of findings as a result of the Empowerment Center pilot. The team is targeting Sept-Oct.

The next meeting of the Coalition is April 10.

Jim added that the Minute for Mission this past Sunday to remind the congregation that the Lenten offering will be committed to Habitat for Humanity. We made a commitment of \$5000/yr for five years. This is how we can meet that commitment.

SPRC – Kelly Stoneman:

We hired a part-time music person, Lisa Santare. She started last Monday. She works with Betsy for 12-16 hours a week.

Finance – Chuck Mason:

Chuck distributed the Finance and Treasurer's reports.

Chuck referred back to David's earlier comments.

Congregational Care – Ruth Oatman:

Ruth spoke of a program run by DE Hospice. It is for those who are not ready for Hospice but has certain medical needs. It includes things like grocery shopping, transportation to doctor appointments. We got the information out to the hospital visitation folks so that they can pass the information on to those who might need it.

TLC will be doing a brainstorming session focusing on their role.

Jim commented on the wonderful hospital visitation team we have. He has received great feedback from those who have been in the hospital.

Ruth indicated that George Athill is visiting nursing homes. He is also on staff at Christiana Hospital as a chaplain.

Communications – Lys Murray:

We are still in flux with the radio station. We are trying to reach the new station owners. The buzz is that it will be a Spanish-speaking station.

The web is always a work in progress. Please let us know if you have updates.

Worship:

Taize starts the beginning of Lent.

Maundy Thursday will be the child friendly service.

Music - Betsy Kent:

There will be a variety of music during Easter Week. Youth Choral will sing at SonSpirit. We will have brass on Easter. The choir will be singing on Good Friday. The youth will sing at Sunrise service.

Additional Pastor Comments – David:

David will be giving a class on gifts in September late afternoon – early evenings.

David had some ideas including; offering a book store as part of the library, providing wireless web access for those who just want to come in and send an email, and providing a café gathering setting for fellowship.

David plans on going to Worship to discuss emphasizing the Easter season more than Lent next year. The intent is to celebrate the resurrection more than just on Easter Day.

A Lay Leadership Development session will be held one Sunday after church. All team leaders are encouraged to attend. Please feel free to encourage your team members to attend as well.

Closing Prayer – Mark Deshon:

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, April 23, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Koch

NUMC Council Secretary