

**Newark United Methodist Church  
Church Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday April 23, 2007**

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**Present:** Michael Chorba, Michelle Koch, Chuck Mason, Kelly Stoneman, Ruth Oatman, Betsy Kent, Mary Haggard, Mary Bell, Dr. Jim Faltot, Mary Hudson, Tom Bailey, Jane Savino, Peter Schmalz, Erika Grabher, Pat McKeon, Allan Loomis, Bill Shearer, Bryan Everett

**Devotion in Prayer – Michael Chorba**

**Approval of 3/26 Minutes:** The Church Council minutes for March 26, 2007 were approved with modification. (Ruth Oatman motioned, Kelly Stoneman seconded)

**Pastor Comments – Jim Faltot:**

David is on vacation this week and next.

**Discretionary Fund Guidelines – Chuck Mason:**

Chuck presented the Discretionary Fund guidelines. In essence, finance is recommending that we have the ability to track the utilization of the funds while keeping the confidentiality of the recipient.

Jim noted that there is a slight difference in the process for the Empowerment Center. Instead of the money coming directly from the discretionary fund, Friendship House will pay. We will then receive a statement from Friendship House and we reimburse Friendship House. It does not change anything documented in the guidelines.

Chuck brought the motion forward from the Finance committee to accept the Newark United Methodist Church Guidelines for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. (Mary Hudson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion)

Decision:

The council unanimously accepted the Newark United Methodist Church Guidelines for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

**NUMC Commitments to the Wesley Foundation – Allan Loomis:**

Wesley Foundation Board announced that they will be pursuing a part-time ministry at the University of Delaware. Wesley Foundation is asking for a commitment from the church to continue to support the Wesley Foundation at the current level (\$13,000 /yr). Conference funding continues to decrease. The Wesley Foundation wants to be able to offer the \$13,000 for either housing or possibly healthcare benefits, depending on the needs of the part-time minister.

Tom Bailey asked if it were possible to solicit subscriptions (donations at various amount levels) in support of the Wesley Foundation. Allan explained that they do solicit alumnae, this congregation, and local area churches.

Roland expressed his concern about the decreasing financial support for this ministry. Future church leaders come from Wesley Foundations. He recalled a study that showed that people who have gone to church regularly but then do not actively participate in a campus ministry, tend to detour from their faith journey until their mid-thirties. If at that time they live within a 5mi radius of where they were originally reared, there is about a 50% chance that they will re-enter the Methodist faith. If they live more than 5 miles, the chance is about 1 in 3 that they will re-enter the Methodist faith.

Roland suggested that Church Council consider making people aware of the situation and make a decision at a future meeting as to whether or not a more abrupt or a more fiscal statement is appropriate.

Peter S. stated that the current funding comes from the sale of the parsonage. We need to make sure that we can allocate the funds for things other than housing. Peter also asked for an overview of the plan for the part-time ministry, what is the total funding required for the ministry, including what percentage this \$13,000 is. Peter recommended, that a future meeting we review the plan for the part-time ministry, present the idea, and confirm that we are allowed to allocate the \$13,000 for support other than housing.

Allan stated that they were planning to start recruiting for the position immediately in order to be prepared for the next academic year. They cannot move forward with recruiting unless they know of the commitment. Originally, the plan was to go to a part-time ministry with no benefits, but that was reconsidered.

Michael asked if it were possible to use the money from the sale of the parsonage in some other capacity. Peter agreed that it might be possible but he thought we would need to look at the Discipline. According to the Discipline, we are not allowed to dispose of the principle from the sale. The income from the principle could go for the housing support of the staff. Currently, the staff housing is partially from those funds and supplemented with operating funds. Michael then asked if we can proceed with our support to the Wesley Foundation since funds can be allocated differently. Peter agreed that is seemed possible.

The Wesley Foundation represented by Allan Loomis, put forth the recommendation that Church Council request to the Finance Committee that, in the process of putting together the 2008 Budget, that they maintain the \$13,000 commitment to the Wesley Foundation. (Ruth O. 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion)

#### Decision:

The recommendation was unanimously approved.

Chuck recommended an exploratory committee or task team to see if there are any alternatives to supporting the Wesley Foundation ministry.

Allan further elaborated that the Board would be taking on more of the administrative tasks that the current role performs today.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### BIA – Bryan Everett –

Nothing to report

##### Wesley Foundation – Bill Shearer –

New Orleans Mission trip went very well. The spiritual aspect this year was particularly good with morning and evening devotions. Seventeen students participated.

The students designed the Wesley Foundation Sunday.

The University of Religious Leaders Organization, including Bill as a campus minister, organized a candlelight vigil on Monday night, in response to the Va. Tech tragedy. Over 500 students attended including faculty and staff. Someone commented on what a good example it is for the students that people of different faiths can come together at a time like this.

The Yard Sale is from 8am – 1pm on May 5.

Senior Picnic on May 20. We recognize the graduating students, some of whom are graduate students.

The Relay for Life on Saturday May 5 at 2pm at the Delaware Field House. The volunteers will go around the track until 6am Sunday morning.

All University Students are invited to the midnight breakfast on May 22. This is sponsored by the University of Religious Leaders. We are hosting the event.

#### Youth – Mary Haggard:

The fund raiser at California Tortilla raised \$265.00. This is good but is less than we rose last time.

The Stock Sale is going on. Be on the lookout for youth with the gray forms. Remind them of the one portion goes back to Mary. People who buy at least \$100 of stock go into the pool of those who get to pick Mary's hair color.

Youth Sunday is May 6<sup>th</sup>. The theme is Back to Reality. This will not be a communion Sunday. Communion Sunday will be May 12<sup>th</sup>, Mother's Day.

May 12<sup>th</sup> is the spaghetti dinner.

Mission trip planning is underway.

June 3<sup>rd</sup> we are honoring our high school seniors at our 9:30 service. At 11:00 we are confirming the Confirmation Class! No Youth Group on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

June 17 is Bible Sunday.

#### Christian Education Staff - Mary Bell:

Lys contacted the Mayor about the Chocolatefest. He is very interested. He has invited Lys and some of her committee members to a planning meeting.

On May 18 at 6:30pm – 8:30pm there will be a Family Fun Service featuring VeggieTales. We will have a movie, games, dinner and crafts.

The G.R.E.E.N. team will be wrapping the bibles for Bible Sunday.

The G.R.E.E.N. team will be handing out freeze pops on Newark Nite.

#### Outreach – Mary Hudson:

The Empowerment Center's first month was an outstanding success. Eighty clients were reached in the first month (52 individuals). Client demographics varied. There was not a 'typical' client that walked through the door. Surprisingly, there were a number of pregnant women who were served. Eight were homeless men. There is some irony in that because 'homeless men' are what initiate this outreach. There were 12 shelter referrals with only 3 hotel stays (people passing through). The go bags have been well received. There is also a hygiene kit that is distributed. Volunteers come from 12 different local congregations.

On June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm there will be a covered dish and at 7:00pm there will be a mid-point report.

Ruth O. suggested that the report in Parish Notes include the names of the different faith communities participating in the pilot.

### Finance – Chuck Mason:

Chuck distributed the Finance and Treasurer's reports. Chuck reported that we are falling well behind the projected giving. Maintaining the current trend, we would be at a \$75,000 deficit by the end of the year. However, spending is down on average. We have 475 pledges and the income from the pledges is 5% higher than last year. Those folks who have pledged are meeting their commitments. Finance comes registering a concern. They do not have a particular suggestion other than possibly having sermons include a message about giving. Chuck mentioned that attendance is down. Chuck suggested having a month where we bring a first time guest.

Jane S. also recommended reaching out to those who are missing.

### Communications – Pat McKeon-

Bill Clark has been in touch with the new owner of 1260AM. A meeting will be scheduled with new owner once David gets back from vacation.

Church Council minutes are being posted to the website. Agendas will be posted as well.

### Worship – Roland Sharp-

We launched the Taize services. This service will continue the first Wednesday of every month at 7pm. Starting the first week of advent, the Taize services will be held weekly.

Roland solicited feedback on activities during Lent.

May 6<sup>th</sup> is Youth Sunday. Worship Team appreciates the day off!

May 13<sup>th</sup> is Mother's Day. We will incorporate the flowers again this year. People are asked to bring their favorite flowers and we will use them in bouquets.

May 20<sup>th</sup> is Music Ministry Sunday. SonSpirit will solicit input on songs that people want to have incorporated in the service.

### SPRC – Kelly Stoneman -

Pastor Evaluations are coming up. SPRC is waiting for the form.

SPRC suggested reaching out to the University of Delaware's Hotel Management and Restaurant group. They would be wonderful resources and it would be good for the students.

### Music - Betsy Kent:

The entire Music Factory Staff from last year will be returning.

On May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm the church will host the Wilmington Hand Bell Ensemble's spring concert, which includes three of our First State Ringers.

On May 11<sup>th</sup> at 8pm the brass quintet, Round About Brass will be performing.

May 20<sup>th</sup> is Music Ministry Sunday.

Music Factory is the first week of August 6-10, culminating with the service on August 12.

Registration for summer and fall programs will be held on May 13 & 20.

### Lay Leaders – Erika Grabher-

Nothing to report.

Congregational Care – Ruth Oatman -

TLC has a new leader, Carol Thompson.

Trustees – Peter Schmalz –

A group of University of Delaware seniors working on a senior project assisted us in assessing our security options. You may have noticed that there are a few cameras already installed. They looked into a security system including pricing. Most of the hardware is in. We are in the process of configuring the system.

We continue to make progress on the steeple. We found a steeple jack. He will begin work towards the end of May. It will take a week or two to replace the rotten wood. We will have to do some barricading and get some permits. The encouraging part of this is that the steeple jack is significantly lower than the other estimates we received. The cost will likely be less than \$50,000. We have seen his work via photos and have spoken with him a number of times. He come highly recommended.

The city of Newark as approached the church and has asked for an easement of about ~400 sq. ft. They want to use the easement to put in a 2<sup>nd</sup> exit lane. We will not lose any parking spots. They are willing to give us the credit amount equivalent of two parking permits.

Fifteen years ago we put in the organ. One of the cost cutting decisions was to put in a two manual console. Richard Lewis was able to find a congregation in Bermuda who is replacing their organ. They currently have a three manual console that they do not want. Likewise, Richard is aware that an organ being designed for a church in New York who needs a two manual console. We may be able to replace our console at little to no cost to the church.

Witness – Mary Haggard –

Story time for Newark Nite will be held in the chapel. Story time and the SonSpirit band will alternate times. The boy scouts want to participate in Newark Nite. We will have people with sandwich boards promoting activities at the church. We will be asking the Stephen Ministers to help as we plan on having the sanctuary open for prayer.

**Closing Prayer – Jim Faltot:**

**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 Tuesday, May 29, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Koch  
NUMC Council Secretary