

Newark United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Monday August 27, 2007

Present: Mark Werrell, Michael Chorba, Michelle Koch, Kelly Stoneman, Ruth Oatman, Betsy Kent, Jim Faltot, David Palmer, Mary Hudson, Jane Savino, Bryan Everett, Deede Cataldi, Kathy Werrell, Bill Clark, Roland Roth, Roland Sharp, Grace Gosnay, Bill Cox, Chuck Mason, Diane Brahy, Mary Bell, Mary Haggard, Barbara Weaver, Donna Hitchner,

Opening Devotion – Mark Werrell

Approval of 6/25/07 Minutes: The Church Council minutes for June 25, 2007 were approved with modifications. (Ruth Oatman moved, Roland Sharp seconded)

Covenant Discipleship – Mark Deshon:

Mark shared an overview of Covenant Discipleship. There were 2 pilot teams this year. They are finishing up their pilot and working on the Discipleship Weekend on Sept. 22–23. All council members are encouraged to attend. At least 5 groups are to start in October. There will be three groups on Sunday, 12:15, 5pm and 7pm. There will be a Tuesday and a Wednesday group meeting at 6am.

Recognition – Mark Werrell:

Mark presented a Newark United Methodist Church Council Resolution. The resolution expressed congratulations and thanks to the clergy, lay staff, and Staff Parish Relations Committee for their dedication and encouragement which resulted in the church placing 3rd among 42 business respondents in the Small Category; 1st in four of the eight sub-categories (top leaders, managers, colleagues, organization); in the top six of two other categories (engagement, conditions) of the 8th annual Best of Business Survey published by the Wilmington News Journal.

Pastor Comments – David Palmer, Jim Faltot, Mary Haggard:

David expressed his thanks to everyone who was so thoughtful and caring during his hospital stay. He got to experience the Congregational Care Hospital Visitation team first hand.

David thanked the teams for their participation in the Leadership Enrichment session. He is excited by those who are willing to serve on the two teams to assist with his course.

Even with money being tight there is still excitement and aliveness about who we are what we are doing and what we are striving for, it makes it a joy to come to work.

Jim showed us the frontal for the altar. It displays a beautiful symbol of our theme, Radiating God's Love. It was made by Ruth Oatman.

Mary told us her title changed twice since last Council meeting. She will be moving into her new office soon.

Committee Term of Service – Term start date – Kathy Werrell:

- The CLL recommends moving our terms of service on the various teams such that they begin on July 1, rather than January, of each year. This is a model used in many churches, facilitating a transfer of leadership at a more convenient time, considering that most program years begin in September. By having leadership transition occur in July, that gives each team the summer months to prepare for the new program year –particularly relevant for Education Teams, but also for Worship and others. This would mean that our Annual Church Conference would also shift to the spring. (During the transition year, proposed as 2008, the current class would be asked to serve an additional 6 months.)

Decision: The motion passed unanimously to accept the Term of Service as written above.

Proposal for Encouraging Collaborative – Kathy Werrell:

We are also trying to move toward a model where the CLL encourages and facilitates collaborative activities/programs between the teams. Two alternatives have been modeled in the past:

- Option A: One would be to have two bodies, both of which would be composed of the team leaders, with one (Administrative Board) being the body that hears all proposals that need administrative approval, and the other (Church Council) being the body where program information is exchanged and points for collaboration are identified and facilitated.
- Option B: The other – probably preferable because it would mean only one meeting/month outside of the team's respective meeting – would be to state that once per quarter (e.g., Council meetings in January, April, July, and October) will be devoted to facilitating collaboration between the teams, who would come to Council prepared to share their planned events for the next 6 months, seeking ideas for improvement and collaboration. It is expected that these quarterly meetings will become exciting brainstorming sessions. At those meetings, there will NOT be any Administrative motions brought to the floor.

Ruth Oatman moved that we accept Option B. Roland Roth 2nd the motion.

Decision: The motion passed unanimously to accept Option B to support team collaboration and planning.

Membership Committee Structure – Kathy Werrell:

We will be creating a Membership umbrella committee to focus on membership. Dale Thorpe has agreed to chair this umbrella organization. The Membership Committee will be comprised of some existing committees as well as some additional groups. The Membership Committee will include the following:

Witness will change their name to Community Events and become a sub-committee within the Membership Committee. The Community Events team will facilitate things like Community Days, Newark Nite, Trick or Treat on Main St, Winterfest, and what other events come along.

The First Contact Hospitality Group (sub-committee) would include things like the parking log ministry, greeters who are intentionally trained to do more than just shake hands and say good morning. It would include the Membership Database records keeping.

New Member Orientation Class

The Shepharding Team will focus on Shepharding new members for 6 months.

Expand from a Membership Recognition person to a group that recognizes important milestones.

Membership Outreach focused on High School graduates to keep contact with these individuals up to 5 years after high school graduation.

Finders of Lost Sheep would work with the Membership Database Management group to pull lists to identify people who have missed church three weeks in a row. Someone will reach out to them to let them know that they have been missed.

There will be more to come on this newly organized umbrella committee.

Committee Reports:

Communication – Bill Clark –

The radio station is supposed to be on the air by early next week (week of 9/3). Bill will call again for an update.

We are working on a Pastor's BLOG.

Roland requested that the Pastors' sermons be posted on the website. David asked if we can have the audio of the sermons posted on the website.

Janet has been sending sermon outlines along with the bulletins to shut ins.

BIA – Brian Everett –

The Fall Stewardship Campaign will begin soon. The ministry fair will be held on October 28th.

Finance – Chuck Mason –

Chuck distributed the Treasurer's Report. Finance appointed an Audit committee. All is sound and in good shape. There were some recommendations on how to do some thing better, but findings were positive.

Finance presented the revised budget for 2007 which includes a 5% reduction overall.

SPRC cuts did not impact staff outside of eliminating a staff retreat. SPRC could not give back as much as requested because we had already authorized expenses for some of the staff.

Finance brought forward the revised budget for acceptance.

Decision: The revised budget was approved unanimously.

Ruth suggested that the congregation needs to see the numbers. Roland S. asked if we were proceeding with a financial report in the bulletin. David commented that a draft communication is in progress. We want to convey the message clearly.

Budget materials will be brought to next Council meeting.

Finance will be discussing further whether or not the budget will align with the program year.

Some reasons for moving the budget period to align with the program year are; appointed clergy come on board July 1; all of the staff would be on the cycle; the highest giving month would be in the middle of the budget year which allows us time understand the actual funds.

The Finance Committee will come back with a recommendation.

Congregational Care – Ruth Oatman –

We commissioned 2 more Stephen Ministers on Sunday. We have 21 trained Stephen Ministers.

Music – Betsy Kent –

We are beginning rehearsal for Children's Choir, Youth Choral, and Choir all starting after Labor Day.

The Seraphim String Quartet will perform Monday Sept 10 at 7:30pm. It will be a free concert. They are looking for places to perform as they prepare for their performance at the Lincoln Center.

Children and Family Ministries – Diane Brahy –

We had a wonderful Vacation Bible School. Our attendance was up from last year. VBS included a good Adult study this year.

Now we are preparing for the start of Sunday School. We are still looking for teachers.

Wesley Foundation – Mary Haggard –

We had our first fellowship time. Fifty students expressed interest in Wesley Foundation by signing up at the recent Student Activity Fair. If we even get 5% of those who signed up, that would be great. There will be a BBQ for the students next Sunday (9/2).

Youth – Mary Haggard –

Youth kickoff is on the 30th.

Witness – Grace Gosnay –

Witness is getting ready for Community Days on 9/16. We have the Spin Art ready. The G.R.E.E.N team will be assisting with the spin art. The boy scouts have volunteered to set up. We would like to have literature for the table like the tri-fold church brochure, information on the Empowerment Center and Stephen Ministry, and Parish Notes.

SPRC – Kelly Stoneman –

Mary Haggard will be the part-time youth pastor. Donna Hitchner will be the Christian Education Coordinator. Mary Bell will report to Donna. Roland Roth was kind enough to redo the job descriptions.

Outreach – Mary Hudson –

The CROP walk will occur on Oct. 21. The walk will start from our parking lot. There will be a 1 mile and 5 mile walk.

Two of our members were recently recognized for their volunteer efforts. Jim Sutton was recognized by Love Inc. in their quarterly newsletter. Richard Waible is the Humanitarian of the Year award winner for his volunteer efforts from Ba'hai.

Empowerment Center continues to serve a tremendous need.

United Methodist Women – Jane Savino –

The quarterly meeting and a pot luck dinner will be held on Sept. 18.

We will also start to collect healthcare kits.

Adult Ministries Team – Roland Roth –

We have started discussing the Singles Ministry.

There is still availability for the Adult Enrichment Opportunities.

Worship – Roland Sharp –

We have a firm blueprint through Advent. We will be visually supporting our theme of Radiating God's Love.

We will have the Blue Christmas service with communion at 7pm on Dec. 16.

There will be four services for Christmas, 4pm, 7pm, 9pm and 11pm.

We are looking for more ushers. We need two for 11 o'clock and one for the 9:30 service.

Additional Items:

Kelly S. suggested that we get shirts with the Radiating God's Love theme, similar to how we made shirts available with the SonSpirit logo.

David shared that Kelly Piatt came to him and explained that since the Christiana School district is in such a budget crunch, the middle school has canceled all extra-curricular activities. She asked if we, the church, would sponsor a Jr High or Middle School Odyssey of the Mind at no cost to us. They need an organization to sponsor them in order to participate. David's only recommendation is that we ask them to run it using our Safe Sanctuary Policy. Kelly wanted to get some additional information together and we can vote on this next Council meeting.

David said that he will present some paths forward related to Affiliating with Reconciling Ministries for consideration at next month's Church Council Meeting.

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, September 24, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Koch
NUMC Council Secretary