

Newark United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Monday September 24, 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, Roland Roth, Roland Sharp, Grace Gosnay, Chuck Mason, Diane Brahy, Mary Bell, Mary Haggard, Barbara Weaver, Donna Hitchner, Will Hammond, Dayle Thorpe

Opening Devotion – Mark Werrell

Approval of 8/27/07 Minutes: The Church Council minutes for August 27, 2007 were approved. (Kathy Werrell moved, Kelly Stoneman seconded)

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

Mary asked that we keep her in our prayers. Youth starts next Sunday, September 30. Campus Ministry and Youth activities will be held on the same night. Up until now Mary was focused on Campus because Youth had not started yet. Now we will see how the Youth/Campus Pastor thing is going to work.

David shared that at annual conference this past year a resolution was passed that every church would at least explore using Fair Trade Coffee. Fair Trade Coffee is working with the growers and giving them a fair price for their coffee so that they have a wage that provided a reasonable income to cover living expenses. It is called being good to the producer. There is a DVD that we need to watch and make a decision on it.

On the first Sunday of October we have two baptisms, one baptizing a child and the other an adult.

David is on a quest for getting good coffee makers in the building.

The first Spiritual Gifts class occurred on 9/23. The first class focused on Strength Finders. That class alone possessed 28 of the 35 strengths. When including the staff, we cover two more of the strengths. That just reinforces the importance of working together.

David spoke to Rev. William Fitzhugh our District Supervisor Church on whether we should have our Church Conference on Nov. 11. because our ministry team rotation has changed from calendar year to program year. There are only a few things that we have to take action on this fall including, Fair Trade Coffee, some for of a covenant, and clergy

compensation packages. Bill had no problem moving the Annual Church Meeting to spring but he needed Church Council to official action to do so.

Motion: Kathy Werrell moved to hold Annual Church Conference in the Spring. Ruth Oatman. 2nd the motion.

Decision: The motion passed unanimously to move the Church Conference from the Fall to the Spring.

At the November Church Council we will need to hold a Charge Conference to approve clergy compensation and state our official position on Fair Trade Coffee.

Code Purple Haven – Mary Hudson:
Mary distributed the 6 month report from Friendship House on the Empowerment Center.

Background:
Newark does not have its own emergency night shelter network. Homeless people in need of emergency winter shelter are referred either to Wilmington, DE or Elkton, MD. Code Purple refers to nights when the wind chill is below 15 degrees Fahrenheit.

Proposed Code Purple Sanctuary Program:
Three to six Newark churches affiliated with the Newark Empowerment Center project consider offering overnight winter sanctuary on Code Purple nights. Provided on a rotating basis, each church in its turn would open its doors room sunset to sunrise to those people who might otherwise freeze to death. Teams of church volunteers would host homeless guests in a church common room with access to bathrooms, a light evening meal, hot beverages and blankets. The goal is not to create an alternative shelter but to keep people from freezing and convince them of the need to get into an emergency winter shelter within the next 24 hours. In the morning guests would be provided with a light breakfast and put on the earliest bus to either the Friendship House Day Center in Wilmington or the Meeting Ground Empowerment Center in Elkton. Another option would be for volunteer drivers to transport homeless guests to either the Newark or Elkton shelters upon their arrival at the church sanctuary in the evening.

Richard Waibel has already volunteered to be the team captain for NUMC. He would round up resources on any night it was NUMC's turn. The odds

are that we would have ~3 nights in a given winter. Churches will rotate each night even when there are consecutive Code Purple nights.

Friendship House is looking for a grant to cover the Winter Ministry in Wilmington and Newark. The deadline for that grant is October 15. They were told that we would not be able to give a decision until the end of October if we uphold our decision making policy to present at one council meeting and vote at the next.

Motion: Roland Sharp moved to suspend the rule to present a proposal at one council meeting and vote at the next. Kelly Stoneman 2nd the motion.

Ruth Oatman added that this is not a new concept. This topic has been brought to council before. Some of the details are new, but the concept has been discussed before.

Roland Roth asked if voting on this motion gives us the time to deal with the opposition that existed the last time. Will this be a problem for the pre-school parents.

David reminded that during registration last winter the pre-school parents were told that a 'shelter' was a possibility. This is not a shelter. Tammy is pretty sure that those who would leave have already left. This is really about saving lives, not sheltering them. The hope is that people would see this differently. We are not violating any agreement.

Decision: Church Council will suspend the rule to present a proposal at one council meeting and vote at the next council meeting. This passed with a majority vote; one abstention.

Motion: On behalf of Outreach, Mary Hudson moved that NUMC provide space within the church for a Code Purple Sanctuary during the winter of 2007-08. Kathy Werrell 2nd the motion.

Decision: NUMC will provide space within the church for Code Purple Sanctuary. This passed with a majority vote; one abstention.

There needs to be a minimum of 3 churches. If we do not get 3 churches to commit, this will not happen.

Odyssey of the Mind Sponsorship – Donna Hitchner:

- During last months council meeting, we talked about sponsoring a Jr High Odyssey of the Mind team. Faith-based organizations have

sponsored teams in the past. Seaford church sponsored a team that went to Worlds.

- NUMC would be a sponsor in name only. NUMC may need to host an occasional meeting.
- NUMC's safe sanctuary policy will be upheld.
- Deede will check on our liability coverage. There was a question that if the group follows our Safe Sanctuary policy do they fall under our liability. Volunteers would need background checks. The interested participants are fine with that. The cost would be included in their fee.

Motion: Roland Roth moved for NUMC to sponsor the Odyssey of the Mind team. Ruth Oatman 2nd the motion.

Decision: The motion passed unanimously for NUMC to sponsor the Odyssey of the Mind team.

Affiliating with Reconciling Ministries – David Palmer:

During a council meeting this past spring David had talked about beginning conversations regarding affiliating with the Reconciling Ministries Network. The Reconciling Ministries Network is an organization that promotes being open to the gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual community.

This is something that will take time. We need to get a team together to determine how to work this through the congregation, have dialog about it. Develop a strategy for how to educate the congregation to investigate support.

Skyline Methodist is exploring the same affiliation. They contacted Epworth UMC in Rehoboth Beach. Rev. Abel told them that the church was willing to lend some of their people to discuss how they did this there. So there is help out there.

One of our church members came to David to proactively volunteer to help. The Reconciling Ministries Network website has a process laid out to engage the congregation.

We cannot say we are a reconciling congregation, by bishop rule. The reason being is that Methodist churches were declaring they were a Reconciling congregation or a Transforming Congregation, transforming meaning that they accepted those from the gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual community, but only to transform them from that preference.

We want > 90% buy in from the congregation in order to say we are affiliating with Reconciling Ministries. This will take time to achieve. We may not get there because we can't get the majority. If it can't happen now, that's ok because we will have brought awareness to the congregation. It is laying claim to how we want to live and making it clear to ourselves and to the public.

Dayle Thorpe shared that the Newark Film festival had a great documentary, "The Bible Tells Me So". It is about how 5 different churches view the gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual community. Perhaps we can use that as part of the education process.

Perhaps the Adult Ministries team could be a sponsor.

David wants to preach about it, because he thinks that there misunderstandings of the text that are used to speak against it.

Motion: Deede moved to form a task force, made up of lay people, to guide a process to investigate becoming affiliated with reconciling ministries. Kathey Werrell 2nd the motion.

Decision: We will form a task force, made up of lay people, to guide a process to investigate becoming affiliated with reconciling ministries. The motion passed unanimously.

David will facilitate the first team meeting. That team would report back to this body.

Committee Reports:

Adult Ministries Team – Roland Roth –

- The Adult Ministries team met for the first time last week. We began to talk about the Singles Ministries. Donna generated a list of singles.
- Adult classes started. The Dog & Cat class got front page in the News Journal in the Religion section. The Beatitudes class has 31 people. The Spiritual Strengths class has 14 people.
- This is Roland's last council meeting.

SPRC – Kelly Stoneman –

- Jerry Swalley and Kelly met with Staff today to start working on the budget.
- We will start putting together Pastors' compensation.

Worship – Roland Sharp –

- Roland shared that there was significant negative feedback regarding the delayed start to the 11am Liturgical service. We need to strongly consider the scheduled start for the 11am service next year. It seems that people are waiting at the start of Sunday School for the Liturgical service to start.
- David agreed that we should not delay the start of the 11am Liturgical Service post Labor Day. It was clear that the delays were not meeting the needs of our people. He said that he would rather explore the other direction, having the 11am service continue during the summer.

Outreach – Mary Hudson –

- United Methodist Men are leading the effort with the CROP walk which will occur on Oct. 21. CROP stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. It collects for the local food pantry as well as helping to feed people around the world. The walk will start from our parking lot. There will be a 1 mile and 5 mile walk.
- Outreach is planning for the Angel Tree ministry. We plan on partnering with a church in Wilmington. Angel Tree is part of the prison ministry.

Membership – Dayle Thorpe –

- There are eight sub teams. Jim Faltot is the staff representative. The first meeting will be held on Oct 15.

Christian Education – Donna Hitchner –

- Meeting Ground is having their 4th Annual Autumn Gathering. There will be good food, a silent auction and Wayne Gilchrest will be the speaker. Tickets are \$40.

Music – Betsy Kent –

- Betsy highlighted the hand bell groups. The First State Ringers are an adult audition group directed by Bruce Cataldi. The youth group of ringers grades 7-12 are directed by Rich Lewis. The children's group formerly known as the Newark Ringers will now be the Newark Ensemble. We are going to start an inter-generation group of beginners, a combination of youth and adults. This new group will just be a fun group. The new group will probably meet on Tuesday night.

Youth – Mary Haggard –

- Youth Group kick off is Sunday night.
- The Missions Shareholders Dinner will be on Oct. 14
- Confirmation class will only be for Sr. High. It will last for 9 weeks. It starts on Oct 21. A letter will go out to those who qualify. Adrian Peoples is co-teaching confirmation.

Wesley Foundation – Mary Haggard –

- Gutter Sunday is this coming Sunday.
- Bible study is going well. We have 2 bible studies. We have about 10 people including a lot of freshman.

Children Ministries – Mary Bell –

- Sunday School kicked off on Sept 9th. We have huge classes except for the 2 yr olds. We will be sending post cards to get more preschoolers.
- The combination 4th and 5th grade class has 25 students and keeps growing.
- G.R.E.E.N. team kickoff was held last Sunday. We had an ice cream social. They already helped out with Community Days.
- Christian Education Sunday is this coming Sunday.

BIA – Bryan Everett –

- Bryan distributed the layout for the Ministry Fair which will be held on Oct 28. BIA want to get more people at the tables so we will have an incentive. We will be giving out cards and the card will get stamped at each table that is visited. If you have 9 or more stamps you will get a prize.
- We plan on having a phone bank a couple weeks after the Ministry Fair and after Commitment Sunday. We are looking for volunteers. The idea is to call the people who normally send in their commitment cards but have not done so.
- Moving forward with the Fall pledge drive for the calendar year 2008.

Witness – Grace Gosnay –

- Witness represented NUMC at Community Days. We recruited former Witness members, Chris Ditzler and Barbara Weaver, who were a great help. Mary Bell and her G.R.E.E.N. team did a great job helping at the event. Grace estimated that roughly 125–150 kids did the spin art. We handed out 236 water bottles. The United Methodist Men as well as the boy scouts helped with set up.

United Methodist Women – Jane Savino –

- UMW had their 1st general meeting and pot luck dinner. Next Tuesday we begin our circles which will be held the first Tuesday of the month.

Finance – Chuck Mason –

- The Treasurer's Report was presented. Treasurer has not incorporated the recently accepted revised budget.
- Each team got a request to submit budgets. Deede offered assistance to anyone who has questions or needs help with budget submittals.

- Finance discussed changing the fiscal year from the calendar year to the program year. Finance has a sub-committee to investigate impacts of changing the fiscal year from aligning with the calendar year. They will speak to other churches that have done it. It would also include a transition strategy that would make this change the least impactful to the groups.
- It was suggested that Finance evaluate being able to realign the fiscal year starting July 2008.
- Council requested that Finance report their findings and recommendation at the January council meeting.

Lay Leadership – Kathy Werrell –

- We have more time to get team members for the next cycle, which will start July 1, 2008.
- We are concentrating on filling the Membership Committee teams.

Congregational Care – Ruth Oatman –

- We found that the Hospital Visitation ministry is not getting notified when someone is admitted through the Emergency Room. George is going to check on how we can be notified.
- Carol Thompson has the Hospital Visitation team running very smoothly. The fact that she also heads TLC has provided collaboration between both that covers the needs very well.
- The homebound are being visited at least once a month. George Athill and Jim F. are visiting the homebound. These people are asking about the radio ministry. They are missing that ministry.
- We will be revising our brochure.

Communication – Pat McKeon –

- No update on the Broadcast ministry. Communications was asked if there is another radio station we can pursue.
- Sermons will be audio edited and posted to the website. The plan is to have the most recent 3 months. We are trying to get web design software in-house so that we can share the responsibility to get information up on the website. We will also work to get the logo for Radiating God's Love up on the website.

Trustees – Will Hammond –

- Steeple Repair has been delayed.
- We are working to get more staffing for the sound system.
- We are constantly talking about parking and parking vouchers and how to improve the parking situation.
- Dave Murray is taking the lead on church storage.
- We will be purchasing a new LCD projector.

- The fall Trustee work day is scheduled for Oct. 20.

Health Team – David Palmer –

- Thanks to Ruth for the making the beautiful tapestry with the symbol for Radiating God's Love.
- The whiteboards have not been very successful. We have not gotten much feedback on them.
- The fellowship pads have been modified to incorporate the Radiating God's Love theme.

Closing Prayer – David Palmer

Additional Items:

The October Council meeting is a Ministries 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, October 22, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Koch
NUMC Council Secretary