

Newark United Methodist Church  
Church Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, May 27, 2008

Present: Mark Werrell, Michelle Koch, Betsy Kent, Rev. David Palmer, Mary Hudson, Bryan Everett, Deede Cataldi, Kathy Werrell, Roland Sharp, Chuck Mason, Rev. Mary Haggard, Donna Hitchner, Lys Murray, Mary Bell, Diane Brahy, Rich LaPointe, Darrell Sparks, Ruth Oatman, Jerry Swalley, Jane Savino, Dennis McDowell, Haig Stubblebine, Jennifer Laning

Devotion – Mark Werrell

Approval of 4/28/08 Church Council Meeting Minutes: The Church Council minutes were approved. (Kathy Werrell moved; Ruth Oatman seconded)

Pastor's Comments – David Palmer:

David shared that he is engaged and will be married September 27th.

Jim is away on vacation celebrating his 25th Anniversary.

Mary is in the midst of moving. Keep Mary in your prayers. Mary and her mother bought a house together. Mary's mother moved in a few weeks ago. Mary is moving in this week. Wesley Foundation activities are winding down.

Reminder – Mark Werrell:

All committees please submit three accomplishments from this past year and three goals for the coming year. Mark already received reports from Communications, Worship, Membership and Outreach. The information will be incorporated into a document that the Conference now requires.

**Committee Reports:**

Outreach – Mary Hudson:

Mary asked that everyone to encourage people to tithe a portion of their economic stimulus check to the Empowerment Center.

Word is getting out about the Empowerment Center. We had twelve clients today. One day last week we had twenty five clients.

If anyone has any quick prep meals, any pasta meals, please drop them off for the Empowerment Center.

Diane Brahy asked if the Empowerment Center was getting the forms that get filled out for each client. The forms need to go to Friendship House. Mary said she would check.

Worship – Roland Sharp:

Taize service is Wednesday 6/4 at 7pm.

SonSpirit band will be playing at Newark Nite from 5:30–6:30 tentatively.

June 29th is the Ulster Service at 9:30am. NUMC is one of the host churches this year for the entire Ulster Program. On July 12th we will be holding a car wash for the Ulster project.

Youth – Mary Haggard:

There was a great deal of positive response to Youth Sunday. One of the parents suggested that we make a dvd of the service and then sell them. It is good to hear that people think it is worth making copies.

We are getting ready for the summer mission trip. The stock sale has started. Please look for youth who are selling mission trip stock.

Communications – Lyz Murray:

There is a sub-committee that is working on the Church website redesign. Thanks to new content management software, the Education and Music departments will be able to directly update the website.

We are delivering the services on cds to shut ins. We have 10 church members who have requested cds of the 9:30 services. We will mail them when necessary.

Lyz asked if any press releases were needed from communications concerning the property purchase or on the Ulster project. Kathy mentioned that we are sending postcards on the property purchase. What we would like to do is streamline the process so that those with email, if preferred, will only receive updates via email. That way we can save on mailing costs. David mentioned that the News Journal has been covering the purchase fairly well.

Lyz also asked about the Ulster Project. Jim is the person spearheading this for us. We need to coordinate with Sally as she may have plans to send a communication to the News Journal.

Adult Ministry – Donna Hitchner:

There have been requests to have a Sunday 11am bible study. Trying Christians and Companions in Christ may want to do something together this summer.

Childrens' Ministry – Mary Bell:

June 8th is Bible Sunday at the 9:30 service.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for every Tuesday in July (7/1 – 7/29).

Sunday School – Diane Brahy:

Summer Sunday School teachers are needed. Sign ups are in Heritage Hall. If we do not get volunteers we will not be able to have Sunday School classes.

BIA – Bryan Everett:

Bryan also asked that we encourage the congregation to tithe a portion of their economic stimulus check. People can designate the tithe by writing something in the description line of the check.

BIA is considering having the Ministry Fair will be held in the beginning of September.

The rosters need to be filled by July 1. We need to consider having a Ministry Fair in the spring, possibly before Easter.

Methodist Men – Rich LaPointe:

The third Saturday in June will be the last Men's Breakfast before the summer break.

Music – Betsy Kent:

On June 22nd a group of youth will present the worship service. We are having a Youth Musical Camp for Jr & Sr High School age youth. The youth will spend the week learning music and choreography. We have 20 youth signed up including our youth and those in the community. The theme is "Celebrate Life".

August 17th is Music Factory Sunday for the elementary school children grades 1-7. Registration will continue through the end of June.

Everyone is welcome to participate in Summer Choir, the last Sunday of the month. No rehearsal on Thursday night. Just come on Sunday and learn the hymn quickly.

Wesley Foundation – Darrell Sparks:

Darrell requested that council consider that Wesley Foundation have a voice on the council.

We have three seniors that are graduating. Two of the graduating seniors will staying to go to graduate school.

Wesley Foundation started working with a professional fund raiser. We are developing a strategic plan for increasing funding.

Finance – Chuck Mason:

Finance discussed the Property Purchase initiative and endorsed in unanimously.

Giving is right on track with projections. Spending is 1% below projections.

Our debt numbers are going down. This debt is what we owe back to Endowment.

Congregational Care – Ruth Oatman:

Things are going well. Carol Thompson has been successful in running the TLC and Hospital Visitation team.

Training continues for Stephen Ministers.

SPRC – Jerry Swalley:

We have received 22 applications for the property manager job. 4 – 6 look like good candidates. We will be conducting interviews next week.

We'd like to sincerely thank Bryan Everett for acting as property manager while we look to hire someone.

United Methodist Women – Jane Savino:

We were honored to have Emily Seiman talk to UMW about her trip to Tunisia. It was wonderful and Jane encourages everyone to consider tapping into the Youth and Wesley Foundation members.

Endowment – Dennis McDowell:

Debt number will go up based on the motions that were passed at the last Church Council meeting. It does not look like we will spend \$75,000. The estimated legal fees are below what was expected. We do not think an Engineering study is necessary. Endowment agreed to loan the church up to \$500,000 to cover the down payment and settlement costs if we decide to buy the property. We really need a vision for the property and how we want to utilize the space. Finance took a shot at estimating the operating costs.

We will hold another meeting with the congregation on Wednesday night and Sunday. We are looking to partner with the University of Delaware and the city to develop this property and Main St. We are looking at all kinds of alternatives because we need to get the cash requirements as low as possible or deferred cash requirements as long as possible so we can finalize our plans. Tomorrow night we meet with the Wilmington District for Church Building and location to inform them of our intentions.

Mark commended Denise and Butch Reed on their hard work regarding the property purchase initiative. They have done a lot of hard work. They have also already had good meetings with EVP of University of Delaware.

Dennis commented on some of the themes coming out of the meetings with the congregation. One theme is the legitimate question on how we pay for the property. The mortgage on the property, valued at \$1.6M is \$12k a month. Partnering with U of D is a way to defer the cash requirement.

Other meetings have the theme of what a good opportunity this is and that God will provide. This is a unique opportunity. It is a once in a lifetime or once in 3-4 generations. This could be a rally cause for the congregation to get behind to raise the funds needed.

Annual Conference – Dennis McDowell:

Dennis is a delegate to Annual Conference. Every year the Church provides an offering for the various offerings that they take. Mary indicated that three of four of the offerings come from Outreach. Last year, the offering was for the Congo Partnership, Aids, and African University. Dennis recognized The Congo Partnership and African University as two of the four listed.

Membership – David Palmer:

Dale Thorpe sent her update. Newark Nite arrangements are underway.

Christian Education – Haig Stubblebine:

We got good press from the News Journal on the Dog and Cat theology piece.

The Singles Ministry has been bumping along. It has been difficult to get someone to take charge.

Chick Flix was a huge success. There are 18 people signed up for the next one that will feature Driving Miss Daisy.

One thing we want to focus on is Sunday School attendance. We want to start tracking attendance better so that we can see how we are doing.

Several people have mentioned wanting an 11am summer Sunday School.

Lay Leadership – Kathy Werrell:

The rosters have been submitted for the program year starting July 1. There are some holes and we continue to try to fill those holes.

There are some pressing needs specifically on SPRC, an unexpired term that would be for 2 years and one 3 year term. We also need co-chair Finance. Nancy needs a counterpart.

John Mauer declined nomination for Trustees. Peter Schmalz, Terry Stoneman, and Jen Laning are the nominees for Trustees.

Announcement: On June 8, Kelly Mansure will share with us her trip to Hong Kong. She worked with women who were domestic workers who have filed labor disputes or issues with their employers, and cannot work while the dispute is investigated. These women are taken into a shelter.

Closing Prayer – Jerry Swalley

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, June 23, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. It will be a planning meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michelle Koch  
NUMC Council Secretary