

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
April 21, 2008

The Wesley United Methodist Church Administrative Council met Monday, April 21, 2008 in the Education Building lounge. Nick Strobel, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., and Pastor Pam Fine opened the meeting with a prayer. Nick reviewed the minutes of the March 16, 2008 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously. The Administrative Council agenda was approved with the addition of one item, the proposal for a community garden next to the church.

Administrative Council members present: Donna Adams, Pam Fine, Freda Hamilton, Jean Ann Lansche, James Lipford, Marlene Lipford, Carolyn Lonsinger, Larry Lonsinger, Jerry Ludeke, Phil Maxwell, Gay Lynne Natho, Diane O'Dell, Anne Scott, David Scott, Nick Strobel. Visitor: Sherry Atkins.

Priority Items:

May 4 Godly Play Presentation: Pastor Pam Fine announced that the Godly Play presentation will be postponed because so many people are out of town on May 4.

May 11 Pentecost Sunday, Confirmation: Pastor Pam will hold a retreat with the confirmation youth the weekend of May 2-3; they will meet at the Atkins mountain home. May 11 is Mothers Day, and mothers will be honored. Communion will be served by the youth.

Youth Group Director: Pastor Pam explained that she has sent out approximately 25 letters to churches, colleges, etc. describing Wesley's youth group director position. To date there have been no responses.

Nominations Committee: Pastor Pam explained that the Nominations Committee is scheduled to meet May 1 but that meeting date may be changed. She has begun to contact committee chairs to determine who wants to remain as chair.

Surprise Project for Bishop Shamana: Pastor Pam said that she has learned that a brief video is wanted from each church to be part of a thank you for Bishop Shamana. She asked that everyone remain after church next Sunday and gather in front of the altar. A 90 second farewell blessing will be sung.

Summer Children's Program: Anne Scott, Administrator Coordinator, explained that she would like to provide Bible stories for neighborhood children during the summer. She plans to offer a weekly program each Tuesday morning starting July 8 and ending before Vacation Church School in August. The program will teach simple Bible stories, and Anne hopes that children who don't go to church will come for the program.

Five Practices Adult Study Book: Anne Scott gave out copies of the study book Five

Practices of Fruitful Congregations to all council members who did not already have a copy. She explained that the book provided valuable examples and suggestions related to hospitality, worship, study, missions, and giving.

Disaster Center Planning: Phil Maxwell, Missions Chair, explained that Evelyn Elliott will head Wesley's efforts to establish a disaster response program and will integrate this program with UMCOR. People will be trained on how to respond when a disaster hits. Phil moved, Nick Strobel seconded, and it was unanimously approved that Wesley establish a disaster relief program that includes qualifying the buildings so that Wesley may serve as a disaster relief center. There was discussion on developing a program of how to keep church families connected if a quarantine is declared for the area and on how to teach people to be personally prepared for a disaster.

Planetarium Show: Nick Strobel said that he will work with Evelyn Elliott and get a date for the planetarium show that Evelyn bid for at the church auction. Evelyn has invited church members to join her family for the show. Nick is director of the BC planetarium.

Financial Status Update: Pastor Pam said that church income is approximately \$7,000 ahead of projections and expenses are \$3,000 below what is budgeted.

30 Hour Famine Youth Program: Phil Maxwell explained that the youth are soliciting pledges for the World Vision 30 Hour Famine and will spend the weekend of April 26-27 participating in the program. They will prepare a breakfast Sunday morning for church members. During the weekend the youth will gather large size coats and jackets for the fall coat giveaway. He will use \$200 from the missions budget to purchase coats at used clothing stores.

Support for Bakersfield Rescue Mission: Phil Maxwell described the financial plight of the Bakersfield Rescue Mission which has recently announced it would have to cut back on beds and support for homeless men. He moved and Nick Strobel seconded that Wesley pledge to give \$500 a month to the Rescue Mission from the church funds. There was much discussion about the motion. Anne Scott stated that she was in favor of a special offering but not a monthly budget item. Jean Ann Lansche discussed community concerns about the method of fund raising used by the mission. Pastor Pam pointed out that there was approximately \$5,000 in the Scrip account that could be used for the mission. Jerry Ludeke recommended that people be invited to make individual pledges rather than a church pledge. The motion was postponed until the May meeting, and Phil will meet with the mission committee to discuss the proposals that were made.

Community Garden Project: Phil Maxwell explained that the lot considered for a community garden project is located west of the church. He said that it has been for sale for 18 months and could be donated but not to a religious organization. Jerry Ludeke has shared this information with the Bakersfield College agriculture department with the possibility that BC could develop a community garden. Funding could be obtained from the Levan Institute. The church would need to determine what role it would play in working with the project.

Major Discussion Item:

Wesley Open House in September: Pastor Pam explained that she would like to have Wesley hold an Open House in September and invite friends and neighbors. She has door hangers that could be given out in the neighborhood, inviting people to Wesley. The Open House would be oriented to people who don't attend church on a regular basis. It could be combined with a health fair and booths displaying church activities. A date of September 28 was selected for the Open House.

Becoming a Green Church: Pastor Pam passed out a sheet listing Green Church Tips. She explained that an all green church has been built in Santa Cruz. She would like to explore the possibility of Wesley becoming a green church. A person is needed to head this project. Further information will be published in the Outlook.

Follow Up on Past Priority Items:

April 20 Spiritually Themed Art Exhibit: Everyone agreed that the April 20 art exhibit was a great success. A variety of art projects created by Wesley people were displayed in the Gathering Place, and a finger foods reception was provided on the patio.

UMW Rummage Sale: It was reported that the UMW rummage sale raised approximately \$1900 for UMW mission projects.

Committee Reports:

Education:

Adult: Nick Strobel announced that the adult Sunday School class will end next Sunday. Pastor Pam plans to lead an adult study called Living the Question. This study consists of three segments, each having seven sessions with video and study questions. The study will be offered on Wednesday night; the first segment will be provided this summer beginning July 9, and Pastor Pam will host it in her home.

Sunday School: Anne Scott said that plans are coming along for Vacation Church School scheduled for August 11-15.

Youth: Pastor Pam said that she and Phil Maxwell currently are leading youth group activities, and they do need assistance from other people until a youth director is found.

Finance: Report already given.

Membership/Evangelism: Anne Scott said that people are needed to sign up for the friendly visitors program. Pastor Pam explained that she envisioned this program to use people not already very involved in church activities. She sees this as a way for less involved people to call on other church members who need visiting.

Memorials: Donna Adams, Memorials chair, reported that two donations have been received.

Missions/Social Concerns: Phil Maxwell, Missions chair, said that the transportation ministry is to be reintroduced. He wants to organize a Volunteers in Mission (VIM) trip

and is planning a Sierra Service trip for the youth to take to Mexico during the summer. The Food Bank currently is serving 56 families each month.

Staff Parish Relations: Diane O'Dell, chair, reported that evaluations on Terry Gonzales, the nursery attendants and the organist are being conducted. People who would like input should contact Diane.

Trustees: Larry Lonsinger, chair, explained that the workers compensation bill for the year was \$630. Every Wesley employee who is paid is included under workers compensation. The coolers are being worked on, and the shingles on the Gathering Place will be repaired.

United Methodist Women: Report already given.

Web Site: Nick Strobel explained that he has established links to missionaries and to General Conference. He and Pastor Pam discussed how it is important to follow what is happening at General Conference. One proposal is that there will no longer be job security guaranteed for new pastors coming out of seminary.

Worship: Flowers will be given out during worship on Mother's Day.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Pam handed out a list of activities that she had done for the last month and briefly discussed each.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Submitted by: Anne Scott

The next Administrative Council meeting will be May 19, 2008.