

**WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES  
August 27, 2007**

The Wesley United Methodist Church Administrative Council met Monday, August 27, 2007 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 June meeting, and the minutes were approved unanimously. He explained that this meeting had been scheduled as a two hour meeting, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., because the council had not met in July.

Administrative Council members present: Donna Adams, Caroline Close, Evelyn Elliott, Pam Fine, Freda Hamilton, Jean Ann Lansche, Carolyn Lonsinger, Larry Lonsinger, Phil Maxwell, Diane O'Dell, Stella Rous, Anne Scott, David Scott, Nick Strobel, Sharyn Woods. Visitor: Jennifer Armantrout

**Major Discussion Item:**

Plans for the Year: Pastor Pam Fine thanked the members for the luxurious welcome that she has been given since arriving July 1. She said that she was delighted to be at Wesley and appreciated this opportunity to share her thoughts. She said that her impression is that Wesley UMC is a very strong church with excellent programs relating to outreach and missions and that finances are in good shape. She feels that the congregation has a little nervousness over the lack of young families and the changing neighborhood. She wants to begin a conversation with members on "what you want from the church." Pastor Pam pointed out that Bakersfield has more churches per capita than any other city in California. She believes that church members need to determine how Wesley is or could be unique and not like other churches and use this in publicizing Wesley. In January Pastor Pam would like to start one or more reading groups to read and share ideas about church growth and revitalization. She described the types of books that she will encourage groups to read.

Pastor Pam announced upcoming district meetings and workshops.

Saturday, Sept. 15; Leadership Training, Selma, 10:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m. Freda Hamilton, Nick Strobel and Phil Maxwell indicated that they were interested in attending.

Fri.-Sat., Nov. 2-3: Training Days (Friday for clergy, Saturday for lay), St. Paul's UMC, Fresno, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Bill Easom will speak. Cost is \$49 for 1 day, \$75 for 2 days.

Sat., Nov. 17: All Church Conference with District Superintendent, Wesley, 2 p.m. This will be done jointly with St. Mark's UMC. Wesley's Staff Parish Committee will meet at 1:30 p.m. with the district superintendent; this will be an annual meeting to discuss how relationships are going with the church and the pastor.

Sat., Dec. 8: United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) Training in how to lead an UM VIM team, St. Mark's UMC, time to be announced.

## **Priority Items:**

2007-08 Church Calendar: Anne Scott, Administrative Coordinator, presented a draft of the 2007-08 calendar. Dates and activities were discussed for each month and changes were made. After there was consensus, the calendar was unanimously approved and adopted. The only uncertain date is when the Finance Committee will hold a lunch or dinner connected to the pledge drive. In the past different options have been done: a lunch to kick off the drive (last year) or a celebration dinner to end the drive (previous years). The Finance Committee will meet Sept. 9 to make a decision.

Fifth Sunday Serving at the Bakersfield Homeless Center: As a part of the calendar setting process, Anne Scott moved that Wesley adopt the fifth Sunday as a day when the church will serve dinner at the Bakersfield Homeless Center. Caroline Close seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. During this church year Wesley will serve dinner Sept. 29, Dec. 30, March 30, and June 29.

Nominations Committee Update: Pastor Pam, Nominations Chair, explained that the Nominations Committee was completing the process of filling positions that remained unfilled. A church meeting will be held in September to approve the slate of officers. Phil Maxwell asked about the status of the Endowment Committee, and Anne Scott said that Wesley's previous pastor Kimberly Willis had removed it from the list of positions because it was not an active committee, and there was no one interested in being chair.

Organist Status: Diane O'Dell, Staff Parish Chair, explained that Gail Scarazzo was serving as interim organist until October. The church has offered a contract to Eunice Lee and she is to begin in October, once she has recovered from recent surgery. Diane said that the Administrative Council "mail in vote" to approve Eunice's contract had been overwhelmingly in favor, and she thanked the members for approving the contract.

Sunday School: Anne Scott explained that Sunday School will begin September 9. She does need additional teachers and will publicize that need in the Outlook. Curriculum materials have arrived. She will be discussing with the Education Committee the possibility of offering a children's activity during the worship service to serve the needs of parents with young children.

Adult Classes: Stella Rous, Education Co-Chair, explained that four adult study groups will meet this fall. Nick Strobel will lead the Sunday School adult study class in a study of the book Soul of Christianity. Bernadine Noxon will lead the Wednesday morning Contemplative Group. The Wednesday night Bible study class will study the Gospel of John using the Disciples Study materials, facilitated by David Scott. The Thursday morning Bible study class also will use a Disciple Study curriculum, Invitation to Genesis, facilitated by Anne Scott and Barbara Dethlefson.

Youth Group Planning: Pastor Pam said that she has organized a Youth Group Council composed of parents, youth and herself, and the Council has had one meeting. Its purpose is to determine the direction the youth group should take and plan activities.

Oct. 27 Dinner/Auction: Carolyn Lonsinger, Dinner/Auction Co-Chair, explained that the committee will meet Wednesday, Sept. 5, to continue plans. There have been 46 dinner reservations to date, and 95 items donated to be auctioned off.

Sept. 8 Work Day: Larry Lonsinger, Trustees Chair, reported that a work day will be held Saturday, Sept. 8, to clean the Education Building prior to the start of Sunday School.

### **Follow Up on Past Priority Items:**

Annual Conference: David Scott explained that his wife Anne Scott, who is a conference alternate, served as a delegate in place of Pat Carter. Pat had to have emergency dental surgery during the week of conference. David reported that this was the year that delegates were elected to the General Conference and this took much time. He described the report that Pastor Pam Fine made as chair of the Children in Poverty committee. Pastor Pam followed up by explaining that she hopes that she can connect Wesley with churches in Angola so that we may establish relationships, particularly between our children and children in Angola.

Ice Cream Social and Fireworks show: Barbara Knowlton, Chair, was not present but Stella Rous, Diane O'Dell and Jennifer Armantrout described the event. It is believed that more than 600 people attended. The crowd was orderly, but the large numbers created some uneasiness. The two security guards did not appear to be very effectual. In future, two lines are needed to serve ice cream, and two water stations are needed.

Fireworks Sale: Sharyn Woods, Finance Chair, reported that after all costs including taxes were paid, the fireworks sale netted approximately \$2,300.

Vacation Church School: Anne Scott reported that there were 67 children in attendance at Vacation Church School and more than 40 adults and teenagers helped during the week. She believes that the event will come in under the \$750 budget.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### Education:

Adult Studies: Report already given.

Sunday School: Report already given.

Youth: Report already given. Pastor Pam explained that she plans to offer a Confirmation Class in early 2008, culminating in confirmation on Pentecost Sunday in May.

Finance: Sharyn Woods said that she was concerned that the pledges and non-pledge giving was \$6,000 below what was anticipated. In addition, the church has incurred additional expenses over what was budgeted. It was suggested that a financial report be printed in the Outlook with a request that persons try to bring their pledge giving up to

date. Sharyn explained that the Pledge Drive this fall will be simple with a letter and card sent out to all members and constituents. She has learned that Wesley members prefer this type of approach, rather than an elaborate professionally packaged appeal. That type of approach two years ago brought in 15 per cent more in monies pledged but then the additional pledged amount did not actually get paid. The Apportionments Adoption program will be continued for next year and will be publicized along with the pledge drive.

Membership/Evangelism: Anne Scott said that the committee will meet in September.

Memorials: Donna Adams reported that the bells have arrived.

Missions/Social Concerns: Phil Maxwell, Mission/Social Concerns Chair, asked that missions/social concerns be the major discussion topic for September. He believes that the church is doing good mission outreach but that there is a tremendous amount more that could be done. He reviewed the sub-categories in his committee and explained that no one is currently heading the Bakersfield Homeless Center and Bakersfield Rescue Mission liaisons, UMCOR liaison, Missionary liaison, Transportation and the Special Giving Days. He asked people to begin to collect coats for the October coat giveaway and to begin to buy items for the toiletry kits that will be assembled during the Greening of the Church. Freda Hamilton, Habitat for Humanity liaison, explained that Wesley is responsible for feeding the people working on the fair Habitat House, Monday, Sept. 24. She needs money contributed to buy the food and people to assist her in serving it that morning.

Staff Parish: Diane O'Dell said that the committee will meet September 10.

Trustees: Larry Lonsinger reported that a new motor was put in the cooling system in Room 1. The cost of renovations to the parsonage before Pastor Pam moved in was \$1,375. This is lower than originally anticipated. The major cost was for plumbing repairs. Freda Hamilton asked about the cement chips on the sanctuary floor that are flaking away, and Larry said that he would follow up. He has repaired this in the past. Stella Rous said that she was concerned about the tree near the office that appears to be dying. Larry said that these evergreens are dying all over town, and he isn't sure about what can be done.

United Methodist Women: Jennifer Armantrout reported for UMW and said that 66 school kits had been packed and given to the Bakersfield Rescue Mission. UMW also has sent money to UMCOR for school kits.

Web Site: Nick Strobel, Webmaster, asked that information be provided regarding Sunday School, and Anne Scott said she would get the information to him once the Education Committee had met. She will send him the list of "favorites" that was gathered for Pastor Pam. Pastor Pam asked if the home page could be changed to show people rather than the church building, and Nick said that this could be done. She would like Nick to work with the youth to set up a youth page.

Worship: Carolyn Lonsinger, Worship Chair, said that the committee will meet Sept. 6 to organize services for the fall.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Pam summarized what she has done to date: Preached nine times, Led youth group meetings, Organized a Youth Council which will meet to plan youth activities, Held morning office hours to be available to people, Met with Anne Scott weekly to organize and review activities, Met with Sharyn Woods to review finances and plan the pledge drive, Met with various church groups and individuals, Visited four shut-ins, Organized and conducted funerals of Anna Lamirand and Audrey Canady, and Met with the District Committee on Ministries. Diane O'Dell thanked Pastor Pam for this detailed report and said that it was greatly appreciated by Administrative Council members.

Pastor Pam explained that starting in September she planned to offer a short five-minute communion service following the regular worship service. This is in accordance with a 2004 resolution from General Conference that weekly communion be offered. Communion will be offered during worship the first Sunday of each month as is done now.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.  
Submitted by: Anne Scott

The next Administrative Council meeting will be September 17, 2007.