

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
August 19, 2008

The Wesley United Methodist Church Administrative Council met Tuesday, August 19, 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 June 9, 2008 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Administrative Council members present: Sherry Atkins, Pam Fine, Barbara Knowlton, Jean Ann Lansche, James Lipford, Larry Lonsinger, Jerry Ludeke, Phil Maxwell, Gay Lynne Natho, Diane O'Dell, Anne Scott, David Scott, Nick Strobel. Visitor: Bob Pickard

Priority Items:

Church Leadership List: Pastor Pam gave out copies of the church leadership list for 2008-09, and updated it to include any names left off.

Cancel/Postpone Open House: Pastor Pam requested a postponement of the proposed Sept. 28 Open House, stating that she would like to hold one after the congregation has finished reading the book Vital Signs. Information gained from that book can be used to guide us in determining what the neighborhood needs and wants from us. It was agreed that the Open House will be postponed to an indefinite time in the future.

Vital Signs Reading Groups: Pastor Pam explained that the California/Nevada Conference has voted to ask all members to read the book Vital Signs by December 15. The book describes four types of United Methodist churches, based on the author's research and visits. She will set up reading groups throughout the city so that all members may have an opportunity to participate.

Church Calendar: Anne Scott, Administrative Coordinator, presented a church calendar draft and asked people to review it. Changes were made, and it was adopted for the year.

Sunday School: Anne Scott explained that the Sunday School will use a new curriculum from Cokesbury called Rock Solid. This will replace the previous curriculum Exploring Faith. Classes will be set up for every age group.

Monthly Free Movie Night: Jean Ann Lansche, Education Co-Chair, said that the Education Committee wanted to recommend the start of monthly family movie nights. They would be held the last Friday of each month, and both church and neighborhood families would be invited. Popcorn and juice would be served. Diane O'Dell moved, Jerry Ludeke seconded, and it was unanimously approved that the family movie night be held for a four-month period starting in September. After the four months are up, the movie night will be evaluated. Jean Ann and Sherry Setser will serve as leaders. Pastor

Pam and Nick Strobel will determine if the church license covers showing the movies.
Plan Your Funeral Workshop: Anne Scott explained that she would like to put on a workshop on how to plan your funeral. It would meet for two sessions in October. This is based on the way Mary Jane Yantis had planned her funeral service and how much it helped her family.

Bazaar: Barbara Knowlton, Bazaar Co-Chair, explained that she and Lillie Johnson will chair the bazaar this fall. Julia Maxwell will be in charge of the lunch. Instead of selling African artifacts this year, the bazaar will feature baskets created by members. It was agreed that the bazaar will be held Nov. 1.

Solar Panels and Air Conditioning in Gathering Place: Phil Maxwell explained that he has been finding out costs and feasibility of equipping Wesley buildings with solar panels and with air conditioning the Gathering Place. Currently, the buildings are on four separate PG&E meters. Cost could be financed through a grant or loan from the Kern Missionary Society. Gay Lynne Natho suggested that the church may want to provide a meeting for members to learn how they can provide solar panels for their own homes. Pastor Pam said that the goal would be to make the church a “green model” for other churches and businesses. Phil Maxwell, Larry Lonsinger and Dan Burklund are working on this project.

Charge Conference: Wesley’s Charge Conference will be Nov. 16. The Fresno district superintendent Mariellen Yoshino will preach, and a lunch will follow. The Staff Parish Committee will meet with the district superintendent in September.

Pastor Compensation: Jerry Ludeke, Staff Parish Chair, passed out copies of the proposed pastor compensation package for 2009. This package must be approved by Administrative Council and presented to the district superintendent in September. The proposed package provided for a COLA of 4.4% that would result in a 2009 salary of \$41,810. It was explained that additional compensation included use of the parsonage, a \$3,000 allowance for utilities, health insurance, travel allowance and expenses for annual conference and continuing education. Jerry Ludeke moved and Phil Maxwell seconded that the proposed pastor compensation package be adopted. Pastor Pam was asked to leave the room prior to discussion. There was discussion about what an excellent job Pastor Pam has done since coming to Wesley. It was moved by Sherry Atkins and seconded by Anne Scott to amend the motion to add a \$100 a month merit increase to the package, totaling \$1,200. The amendment was approved by a vote of eight to three, and the entire compensation package was approved by a vote of eight to two with one abstention.

Major Discussion Item:

Fireworks Sale: Nick Strobel explained that at the June church meeting regarding sale of fireworks it was agreed that Administrative Council would discuss the issue in detail and make a decision. He emphasized that the discussion needs to separate sponsorship of the fireworks booth from the popular ice cream social and fireworks show. Phil Maxwell

presented an analysis of the fireworks finances. A profit of \$2,850 was earned after all bills had been paid. Phil said that he reviewed all the invoices and costs and talked to the fireworks company representatives and found a retail sales discrepancy of \$3,500. This type of discrepancy also occurred last year. Phil said that there was close accounting this year of all money taken in, and the discrepancy appears to be between the amount of fireworks received and the amount for which the church is billed. Pastor Pam said that she was not as concerned about where the discrepancy occurred as that it was an added point in considering whether to continue the sale of fireworks. There was considerable discussion that included the views of Bob Pickard, Fireworks Sale Chair. Anne Scott moved and Gay Lynne Natho seconded a motion that Wesley Church stop selling fireworks. Further discussion concerned whether absent council members should be provided with an opportunity to be heard on this issue and to vote. It was agreed that the motion would be postponed until the September Administrative Council meeting and that absent members and church members be informed that there would be a vote.

Church Meeting Nights: Pastor Pam proposed that all church committee meetings be on the same night and be followed by the Administrative Council meeting. Nick Strobel suggested that committee meetings be held Sunday afternoon following a lunch and Administrative Council be held at another time. Phil Maxwell recommended that a Wednesday night with dinner be considered. There was considerable discussion about all the suggestions with several persons speaking against Sunday afternoon. It was agreed that Pastor Pam should meet with committee chairs and hear their views and then put together a proposal that could be brought to the September meeting for discussion and possible approval. In the meantime committees will meet as they have done in the past.

Follow Up on Past Priority Items:

Vacation Church School: Anne Scott reported that 54 children attended from both Wesley and Trinity churches and everything went very smoothly. She thanked all the teachers and helpers.

Pool Party: Jerry Ludeke reported that approximately 30 people attended the August 17 pool party. Everyone had fun, and it was a great end of summer event. Jerry was thanked for hosting the event.

Committee Reports:

Education:

Adult: Report already given.

Sunday School: Report already given.

Youth: Pastor Pam reported that no summer youth activities were held, but the youth didn't seem to mind because they were involved in other activities or out of town. The youth will meet in early September to plan events for the year.

Finance: No report.

Membership/Evangelism: No report.

Memorials: No report.

Missions/Social Concerns: No report.

Staff Parish Relations: Jerry Ludeke, Chair, explained that the current organist has resigned as of September 1. He will be working with his brother who has been appointed as music director for a church. Wesley has hired Victoria Choi, a 9th grade student at Stockdale High School. Victoria is a student of the same teacher who taught the two previous organists. She will be paid \$600 a month.

Trustees: Pastor Pam reported that Larry Lonsinger has been elected again as chair of the Trustees. Larry explained that the air conditioners have been cleaned and the sprinkler controller repaired.

United Methodist Women: Barbara Knowlton, United Methodist Women president, said that the United Methodist Women will hold a general meeting and potluck Sept. 11. A representative from CASA will speak to the group.

Web Site: Nick Strobel, Webmaster, invited people to provide information for the website.

Worship: Sherry Atkins, Worship Co-Chair, announced that the worship committee will go on a retreat to her house Sept. 6. During the retreat the committee will examine every aspect of the 10:30 a.m. worship service and discuss possible changes. Pastor Pam will provide training for the acolytes August 24 following worship. Acolytes are drawn from children in the 3rd through 6th grades. Pastor Pam also will meet with altar guild members and with ushers to discuss their responsibilities.

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

She reported that member A.D. Riley who has moved to Tennessee has sent a \$5,000 check to Wesley to be used however Administrative Council wishes. This item will be placed on the September agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Anne Scott

The next Administrative Council meeting will be September 16, 2008.

