

**WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
December 12, 2005**

The Wesley United Methodist Church Administrative Council met Monday, December 12, 2005 in the Education Building lounge. The meeting was called to order by Nick Strobel, Council Chair, at 5:30 p.m. Pastor Kimberly opened the meeting with prayer. The October minutes were approved as written.

Present: Donna Adams, Jennifer Armantrout, Sherry Atkins, Pat Carter, Barbara Dethlefson, Jean Ann Lansche, Ana Lester, James Lipford, Larry Lonsinger, Jerry Ludeke, Phil Maxwell, Anna Murillo, Gia Murillo, Anne Scott, David Scott, Nick Strobel, Pastor Kimberly Willis, Sharyn Woods.

Priority Items:

Finance Campaign: Sharyn Woods, Finance Chair, reported that 74 pledges have been received to date for a total of \$153,000. Last year \$149,000 was pledged. There are 15 new pledges totaling \$29,000. Thank you letters will be going out this week. There are 18 families that pledged last year and have not been heard from; follow up contact will be made with these families.

Finance Report: Sharyn Woods, Chair, reported that a total of \$131,045 in pledges has been received through November and \$136,583 was budgeted. This means that pledges are approximately \$5,000 behind the budgeted amount. However, church expenditures are also lower, and the budget is balanced. Sharyn said that she is working on making the written budget report more understandable. She and Pastor Kimberly plan to analyze giving to determine if there are discernable trends. Jerry Ludeke pointed out that there is \$550 in the handbell revolving account which may be used to pay expenses of persons attending the handbell conference.

Apportionments Adoption: Pastor Kimberly reported that three apportionments have been fully or partially adopted: Black Colleges, Ministerial Education and a portion of World Service.

Staffing Changes /Update: Pat Carter, Staff Parish Chair, announced that Sherry Atkins has volunteered to serve as the handbell director. Jerry Ludeke explained that the organist subcommittee has been unable to find an organist to replace Heidi Mensink. They are currently considering an accompanist recommended by California State University, Bakersfield. The candidate is 17 years old. She will be interviewed and asked to rehearse with the choir. If selected, a three month probationary contract will be signed. Polly Findley has volunteered to play the organ at times. Pat explained that Joshua Huddleston is leaving as Youth Director, and Pastor Kimberly is putting together a new youth program with a monthly Sunday evening program and weekly meetings during the Sunday School time. The pulpit supply list for January 15 through April 2 was handed out. Pastor Kimberly's last Sunday before her surgery will be January 8. She plans to return to the pulpit April 9.

Dec. 17 Angel Tree Party: Anne Scott, Administrative Coordinator, reported that Julia Maxwell is in charge of the Angel Tree Christmas party, and everything is planned for Saturday. All of the 40 families have been contacted and invited. All of the gift tags have been taken.

Christmas Eve Play: Anne Scott said that the Christmas Eve play will be performed at the Angel Tree party and at the 7 p.m. Christmas Eve service. She is very pleased with the participation of children, youth and adults in the play.

January Lunch: It was requested that the January Sunday lunch be removed from the calendar as the youth group, one of the sponsors, is being reformed. It was agreed that this lunch would be eliminated. Barbara Dethlefson pointed out that the United Methodist Women are planning a dinner at the end of the month.

Major Discussion Items:

Rummage Sale Proposal: In November Phil Maxwell, Missions/Social Concerns chair, had proposed that four rummage sales a year should be held. Lisa Neath would chair this activity. Phil had to be out of town on business and Lisa was not at the meeting so it was agreed to postpone this item until January. There was considerable discussion about having four sales a year with several members voicing concerns. Nick Strobel asked Anne Scott to write a summary of those concerns and share them with Phil and Lisa. Concerns included:

1. Oglesby Hall has been formally designated as the meeting place for youth, and storing rummage there as well as having sales every three months sends a negative message to the youth. It also takes away space from the youth program. How would the space be organized so that the rummage was stored neatly until sold?
2. It is unclear as to the purpose of the four sales a year. Is it to serve the neighborhood or to raise money? If it is to serve the neighborhood, shouldn't we just encourage people to donate their rummage to the homeless center. If it is to raise money, isn't it a more effective use of people's time to have one large sale a year, rather than four smaller sales?
3. It is unclear as to what will be sold at the sales. Some people thought that there would be one general sale a year, and the other sales would be clothing. Others thought everything would be on sale as people could bring rummage in all year.
4. Pastor Kimberly voiced concern over having rummage coming in at all times. She does not want Terry Gonzales to be taken away from her job and having to open up Oglesby Hall whenever someone wants to bring in rummage.
5. There was concern over how many people would be needed to staff each sale and whether people wanted to work on a sale every three months. Those who have run the rummage sale discussed how much time and effort a sale takes.
6. The city of Bakersfield limits rummage sales to two a year; we need to find out if Kern County has a limited number allowed and what that number is.
7. It costs approximately \$75 to advertise a sale in the Bakersfield Californian. This is the best way to attract people to the sale. Running four sales would mean an outlay of \$300 in advertising costs.

Follow Up on Past Priority Items:

Nov. 27 Charge Conference: Pastor Kimberly said that the Charge Conference went well. District superintendent Vickie Healy gave each church a challenge to raise weekly attendance in worship. She passed out a list of suggestions for churches to do. Wesley already has done many of the suggestions. Barbara Dethlefsen said that the Membership/Evangelism Committee would review the list and discuss what additional projects could be undertaken.

Blanket/Coat Giveaway: Anne Scott explained that there was a large turnout of people requesting coats and blankets, and we ran out of both items. Crystal Huddleston and Phil Maxwell took down names of persons not receiving coats or blankets and made an appeal for these items during church Sunday. There has been a much greater response this year than in previous years. This year, rather than handing out flyers, the giveaway was announced through the East Side Community Coalition.

Dec. 3 UMW Christmas Lunch: Jennifer Armantrout reported that it was a nice lunch with many presents collected for the homeless center. Martha Circle cleaned, wrapped and donated 300 sweaters. All of the UMW members brought presents for the center residents. The UMW special award pin was presented to Laura Daillak.

Dec. 11 Caroling and Party: Barbara Dethlefsen said that the carolers visited 28 persons and six care facilities. There is a need for more carolers to join this activity.

Committee Reports:

Education:

Adult: Jean Ann Lansche, Education Co-Chair, explained that Nick Strobel will teach a class on Methodist structure starting in January. There is a need for a second class. The contemplative class that Bernadine Noxin is leading Wednesday morning will continue through Lent.

Sunday School: Anne Scott said that the Sunday School members are presenting the Christmas play. There will be no Sunday School classes Christmas Day or New Years Day.

Youth: Pastor Kimberly reported that Pat Carter will lead the senior high youth during Sunday School and Hank Webb will meet with the youth Sunday evening twice a month. They will be assisted by parents.

Finance: Report already given.

Membership/Evangelism: Jennifer Armantrout said that the Prayers and Squares group has a few quilts but needs to make more. There are one to four persons active each week.

Memorials: Donna Adams, Chair, said the committee has not met because nothing has occurred regarding memorials.

Missions/Social Concerns: Report already given.

Staff Parish: Report already given.

Trustees: Larry Lonsinger, Chair, said that PG & E has fixed the leaks found on the outside of buildings. He described three bids that Shirley Lewis obtained for the Gathering Place drapes. There were bids of \$3,450 and \$3,000 to provide new drapes and rods. A cleaning company said that the drapes could be cleaned, mended and reinstalled with new hooks for \$321. If the drapes fell apart when being cleaned, there would be no charge for the cleaning. It was moved by Anne Scott, seconded by Barbara Dethlefsen and unanimously approved that the drapes be cleaned, mended and reinstalled. Larry said that the patio at the parsonage would be repaired by Christmas. It was recommended that the phone number for the Security Company be posted by each phone in addition to being posted by the alarm code box.

United Methodist Women: Jennifer Armantrout reported that the UMW will present a ham dinner Saturday, Jan. 28. Cost will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

Web Site: Nick Strobel, Webmaster, gave another plea for people to look over their sections of the website and tell him what needs to be changed, corrected or receive additions.

Worship: Anna Murillo, Worship Chair, explained that there was a reception after worship service for Heidi Mensink on Dec. 11 as her last day will be Christmas Day, and she will not be here Dec. 18. There will be a reception for Josh and Crystal Huddleston Dec. 18. People were asked to bring poinsettias to church and place them on the railings. A request has been made to construct a labyrinth at Wesley. The worship committee will form a subgroup to study this proposal and report back to Administrative Council.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Kimberly described the Longest Night service that will be held Wednesday, Dec. 21, jointly with St. Marks and Trinity. She said that the service was done each year in Monterey and served peoples' needs. The service moves from darkness to light and is designed to support those who may feel troubled during the holiday season. Pastor Kimberly explained a California initiative that is being developed to provide universal health care for children. It would be funded through a tax on tobacco. Signatures will be gathered January through March and she encouraged people to get involved.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. The next meeting will be Jan. 23, 2006.

Submitted by: Anne Scott

