

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
December 10, 2007

The Wesley United Methodist Church Administrative Council met Monday, December 10, 2007 in the Education Building lounge. Nick Strobel, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m., and Pastor Pam Fine opened the meeting with a prayer. Nick reviewed the minutes of the November 19 meeting, and the minutes were approved unanimously. The Administrative Council agenda was approved with several additions.

Administrative Council members present: Not recorded.

Priority Items:

Alternative Giving: Phil Maxwell, Missions Chair, reported that two Alternative Giving gifts have been returned to date. The program will continue until Christmas.

Angel Tree Mission Outreach: Phil reported that all Angel Tree gift tags have been claimed. Invitations to the Sat., Dec. 15, Christmas party have been sent to all the families, and follow up phone calls will be made.

Salvation Army Christmas Boxes: Phil said that 15 people were needed to pack Salvation Army Christmas food boxes Wed., Dec. 14, 3 to 5 p.m. This year the boxes will be packed at the fairgrounds Fine Arts building.

Boy Scouts: Phil reported that he plans to explore the possibility of Wesley hosting a Boy Scout troop.

Christmas Pageant: Pastor Pam reported that the Christmas pageant will be presented both at the Saturday Christmas party and the Sunday worship service. There is a need for more small shepherds.

Christmas Eve Services: Mon., Dec. 24, there will be a 7 p.m. family service and a 10 p.m. meditative service. Pastor Pam said there has been a discussion about whether to serve communion at 10 p.m., and a decision has not yet been made.

New Year Open House: Pastor Pam announced that she will host an open house at the parsonage on Jan. 1, New Year's Day. The event will be from 12 noon to 5 p.m. It will be followed by a Taize service at 5:30 p.m. at the church. Anne Scott said that she is coordinating goodies for the open house and invited people to contribute.

January Completion Project: Pastor Pam said that she would like to lead a Completion Project in January that she has previously done with other groups. People would be invited to select projects that they want to complete and make a plan to complete the projects within a stated time. Each person would meet with a buddy to share plans and set realistic goals. The Completion Project will begin Jan. 8 and end Feb. 5.

Reading Groups on the Future of the Church: Pastor Pam explained that she plans to organize four reading/discussion groups that will meet for seven to 10 weeks. Each group will read a different book on church renewal. Included will be the current Wednesday night, Thursday morning and a Sunday morning group, plus one additional group at a day and time to be determined.

Website on Long Range Planning: Webmaster Nick Strobel explained that he has added a link to the church website to include information about long range planning and ideas about church renewal. He has posted information from the November training day that he attended, and notes from the reading groups could be posted there.

Jan. 13 Baked Potato Lunch: Anne Scott, Membership/Evangelism Co-chair, said that an all church baked potato lunch will be held Jan. 13. The free will offering will benefit the youth group. Sign up lists for volunteers will be posted.

Salary Increase and Benefits: Diane O'Dell, Staff Parish Chair, brought a recommendation from the Staff Parish Relations Committee that Terry Gonzales, Wesley Administrative Assistant, have her salary increased to \$13 an hour and that \$100 a month be paid into her retirement benefit account. The salary increase would include a cost of living plus an additional amount. Previously Wesley has paid nothing into her retirement account. This item was referred to the Finance Committee to be included in the 2008 budget that will be voted on in January.

Youth Leader Position: Diane brought a recommendation from the Staff Parish Relations Committee that a youth group leader position be budgeted for 2008. She proposed that \$600 a month for eight months, for a total of \$4,800, be put into the budget. This was referred to the Finance committee to go into the 2008 budget.

Clergy Convocation: Pastor Pam explained that she would like to hold a quarterly clergy convocation with all Wesley members invited to join with her to discuss a common question. It was agreed the first convocation will be held Sat., Jan. 26, starting at 5 p.m. with a dinner to be followed by discussion for one and a half hours. Each convocation will focus on a single topic. Phil Maxwell volunteered to be in charge of the cooking.

Stephen Minister Training: Pastor Pam explained that she will attend Stephen Minister Training in late January.

Major Discussion Item:

2008 Budget: The 2008 budget will be adopted at the January meeting. Pastor Pam said that she would like to have \$2,300 budgeted for advertising in 2008. This would cover a weekly ad in the Californian at \$24.75 a week and \$350 for two holiday advertisements at Christmas and Easter.

Follow Up on Past Priority Items:

Greening of the Church: During the Dec. 2 Greening of the Tree evening there were 96 toiletries bags packed for the Bakersfield Homeless Center.

Dec. 9 Missionary Visit: Pastor Pam explained the process of a church sponsoring a missionary such as Katherine Parker who spoke Dec. 9 at the church breakfast. Complete sponsorship would be \$2,500; a church also may do a partial sponsorship. Each missionary is to try to raise \$45,000 in sponsorships. The possibility of sponsoring Ms. Parker was referred to the Missions Committee. Pastor Pam said that Ms. Parker was very impressed with the welcome that she received from Wesley.

Dec. 9 Caroling and Party: Anne Scott reported that the Dec. 9 caroling and party went well. It was suggested that the persons to be caroled have their phone numbers listed on the sheets so that they may be phoned if they don't respond when their bell is rung.

VIM Leadership Training: Pastor Pam attended the recent Volunteers in Mission (VIM) training at St. Marks UMC and said that she would like to have Wesley do a VIM trip internationally or to the Gulf Coast. An international trip takes at least a year of advance planning. She will talk with the Missions Committee about possible trips.

Committee Reports:

Education: Jean Ann Lansche, Education co-chair, reported that the various classes are going well. Pastor Pam explained a program, Godly Play, that she would like church members to see. The program can be used in Sunday School, for the narthex activity or as an after school program. On April 20 a presenter will come to Wesley and demonstrate the Godly Play program at a lunch during the worship service.

Finance: Report already given.

Membership/Evangelism: Report already given.

Memorials: No activity this month.

Missions/Social Concerns: Report already given.

Staff Parish Relations: Pastor Pam explained that she and Diane O'Dell will be meeting with organist Gray Rowland to discuss the terms of his proposed contract.

Trustees: Larry Lonsinger, chair, said that a new copier will be installed in January.

United Methodist Women: Jennifer Armantrout, UMW representative, reported that 21 women attended the UMW lunch held today at the Guild House. Barbara Knowlton won the quilt that was raffled off.

Web Site: Report already given.

Worship: Carolyn Lonsinger, chair, said that the committee will meet Jan. 17.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Pam handed out a list of activities that she had done since the last meeting and briefly discussed each. She said that she would like the council to discuss organizing the church as a receiving station in an emergency. Evelyn Elliott, KMC pharmacist, endorsed that proposal.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Submitted by: Anne Scott

The next Administrative Council meeting will be January 14, 2008.

