

**WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
December 16, 2008**

The Wesley United Methodist Church Administrative Council met Tuesday, December 16, 2008 in the Education Building lounge. Nick Strobel, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m., and opened the meeting with a prayer. Nick asked the members to review the minutes of the November meeting. Pastor Pam Fine requested that in the section of the minutes titled Vital Signs Email Discussion With Author the wording be changed to read, "Pastor Pam said that there are three areas of interest she'd like to explore further." With this change the minutes were unanimously approved. Two items were added to the agenda: A visiting youth group in June 2009, and the role of ethics in disaster preparedness planning.

Administrative Council members present: Sherry Atkins, Evelyn Elliott, Pam Fine, Tom Larwood, James Lipford, Larry Lonsinger, Phil Maxwell, Anne Scott, David Scott, Nick Strobel.

Voting Items: No items

Major Discussion Items:

Pledge Figures: Pastor Pam Fine reported that 2009 pledges returned to date total less than current pledges, and realistically no more than \$145,000 in 2009 pledges is likely. Nick Strobel provided a spreadsheet showing the 2008 budget and expenditures and proposed 2009 budget requests. There was extensive discussion about the 2009 budget and income. Pastor Pam said that she and Finance Chair Evelyn Elliott would call a meeting of the Finance Committee to put together a 2009 adjusted budget to bring to the January 20, 2009 Administrative Council meeting. She pointed out that committee chairs had done a good job and not overspent in 2008, but that the adopted 2008 budget had been \$35,000 more than projected income and never balanced. Discretionary funds have been used this year to offset the approximately \$15,000 difference, and there is only \$5,526 left in the discretionary funds account.

Christmas Gathering/Angel Tree Program: Phil Maxwell, Missions Chair, reported that the Saturday activity is planned. All that is needed is a person to play Santa Claus. There are five children still to be provided with gifts.

Christmas Pageant: Pastor Pam announced that pageant participants will rehearse Saturday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Costumes will be fitted at that time.

Christmas Services: Pastor Pam said that there would be a Blue worship service tomorrow for persons experiencing depression and sadness during the holiday season. Two Christmas Eve services are planned, a family service and a meditative service.

Parsonage Open House: Pastor Pam invited everyone to come to the parsonage open house on New Year's Day, noon to 5 p.m. Snacks will be served, and a television set will be on for football bowl watchers.

Tex Sample Visit: Pastor Pam said that she has talked with Tex Sample, and he has said that he would like to lead the Sunday morning adult classes as well as speak Saturday night and preach Sunday morning. She is publicizing his visit on the conference website and has sent publicity to the Bakersfield Californian. The Education Committee is organizing the dinner.

Leadership Retreat Jan. 17: Pastor Pam said that everyone is invited to the Saturday, Jan. 17, 2009 Leadership Retreat. She would like all church leaders to attend. She still is looking for a place to hold the retreat as she would prefer to hold it away from the church grounds. The retreat will be an all day event. The major topic will be to discuss the elements that constitute a vital church.

Feb. 15 Consultation: Pastor Pam announced that she plans to hold an all church consultation Sunday, Feb. 15. This would follow an all church lunch. The consultation would be similar to the first one that she held several months ago.

Youth Group Visit: Pastor Pam said that she had been contacted by the First United Methodist Church of Bethany, Georgia to see if their youth group choir could visit and sing at Wesley. The group would need housing and food during their overnight stay. They could sing during the worship service or present a concert. They present a variety of Christian music ranging from classical to rock. About 40 youth + 15 adult chaperones would come June 6th or 7th. It was unanimously approved that Wesley host the group.

Ethical Principles As Part of Disaster Preparedness: Evelyn Elliott, chair of Wesley's Disaster Preparedness program, explained that she wanted to encourage people, especially Pastor Pam, to attend a Feb. 23, 2009 (Monday) lecture from 1 to 2:30 PM that would address the issue: How do you make ethical decisions during a disaster? A March community event will be held to provide information about disaster planning. Evelyn will bring additional information to the January meeting.

Follow Up on Past Priority Items

Greening of the Church: Sherry Atkins, Worship Chair, reported that the church sanctuary and The Gathering Place were decorated during the first Sunday in Advent.

Christmas Caroling: Anne Scott, Administrative Coordinator, said that there were three groups of carolers this year, and they visited the homes of Wesley shut-ins and nursing homes. The groups ended up at Jerry Ludeke's house and had snacks and sang carols.

Sunday School Salvation Army Gifts: Anne Scott reported that the Sunday School children went shopping Saturday and bought 101 \$1 gifts for the Salvation Army. She thanked the UMW Dorcas Circle for donating \$62 towards this project.

Visit of Missionary Katherine Parker: Pastor Pam reported that missionary Katherine Parker's visit to Wesley went very well. There was a good turnout for the dinner where Katherine presented slides of her work in Cambodia. Pastor Pam explained that she is

exploring the possibility of organizing a Volunteers in Mission trip to Cambodia to take place in January/February 2010. This would be a cultural exchange to give people an opportunity to meet Cambodian people and learn about mission work there. Anne Scott reported that \$1,700 has been pledged towards the \$2,500 year 2009 covenant commitment for Katherine.

Committee Reports:

Education:

Adult/Sunday School: Anne Scott said that the adult classes and the Sunday School were doing well.

Youth: Pastor Pam explained that she plans to meet with the youth and their families to develop a family ministry that involves the youth. This appears to be the best way to involve youth in the life of the church.

Finance: Report already given.

Membership: Anne Scott said that the Membership Committee is promoting monthly all-church lunches or dinners, and these are well attended. The purpose is to encourage Wesley members to get to know each other better.

Memorials: No report.

Missions/Social Concerns: Report already given.

Staff Parish: Nick Strobel said that the Staff Parish Committee has approved all salaries of employees and provided this information to the Finance Committee to be included in the budget.

Trustees: Larry Lonsinger, Trustees Chair, reported that The Gathering Place freezer was repaired but is hot again. He said that the light illuminating the flag has been out and needs to be replaced. He presented estimates for air conditioning The Gathering Place. The estimates are approximately \$20,000. Pastor Pam said that she was going to talk to the Kern Mission Extension Society about possible grants to cover the air conditioning cost. The argument would be that the building could then be used for contemporary worship services leading to a possible increase in members.

United Methodist Women: No report.

Web Site: Nick invited people to view the website and add to it.

Worship: Report already given.

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

The meeting was then adjourned.

Submitted by: Anne Scott

The next Administrative Council meeting will be January 20, 2009.