

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
December 8, 2009

Nick Strobel, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. Pastor Karen Stoffers-Pugh opened the meeting with prayer. The minutes of the November 2009 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved. There was one addition to the agenda: changing the day when the Lunch Bunch meets.

Administrative Council members present: Freda Hamilton, Barbara Knowlton, Larry Lonsinger, Jerry Ludeke, Karen Stoffers-Pugh, Anne Scott, David Scott, Ruth Shivers, Lisa Strobel, Nick Strobel.

Major Discussion Items:

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations: Anne Scott, Administrative Coordinator, showed a video that introduced the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations program. She said that Wesley will begin the five week program Jan. 3, 2010. The first week will focus on Radical hospitality. Following weeks will focus on: Passionate worship, Intentional faith development, Risk-taking mission and service and Extravagant generosity. Pastor Karen will preach about the topics, and each family will have a daily devotions book to use at home. There will be a study group formed for each topic, and the groups will recommend actions for the church to take as a result of the study. The program will end with an all-church lunch Sunday, Feb. 7.

Finances, Pledge Campaign; 2010 Budget: David Scott, Finance chair, reported that Wesley currently has a deficit of \$4,000, but that this is much better than the projected deficit of \$11,000. He said that if there is a generous Christmas offering and all pledges are paid, the church should end the year in the black. There have been 49 pledges received for 2010; these include six new pledges. One-fourth of the families who pledged have increased their pledge and most of the other families have remained at the same amount as this year. Only two pledges have been reduced, and this was due to financial reversals. David said that two letters will go out this week. One letter will go to people who have pledged, thanking them. The second letter will go to people who have not yet pledged. David believes that some of these people may think they have pledged as they are very active members. The finance committee will establish the 2010 budget in January. Virtually all committee requests are for the same amount as in 2009. David said that he does not plan to include any income from the proposed cellular tower lease in the 2010 budget. That is because there probably will be no income until the summer, and the first payments will need to be used to pay the lawyer advising the church on the lease and for capital improvements that have been put off.

Priority Discussion Items:

Cellular Tower: Larry Lonsinger, Trustees chair, reviewed the meetings that he has had with the cellular tower committee and with the lawyer who is representing Wesley. He said that Clearwater currently is writing a lease agreement and Wesley's lawyer will review it. Larry explained that if Clearwater subleases part of the tower, Wesley will

receive 50 % of that payment. Clearwater will pay any property taxes that the church incurs. Michael Daillak will negotiate maximum fees with the lawyer that Wesley is using as there are concerns about the fees. The tentative amount that Wesley will receive each month is \$1,100 but that may increase based on negotiations. Pastor Karen said that Clearwater has said that it will pay a bonus of \$2,000 if the church signs the lease by Dec. 15. She asked for permission to sign the agreement before the Administrative Council meets again. Jerry Ludeke moved and Ruth Shivers seconded a motion to give Pastor Karen Stoffers-Pugh and Trustees chair Larry Lonsinger the power to sign a lease agreement if the lawyer approves the lease. The motion was unanimously approved.

Dec. 13 Christmas Musical: Jerry Ludeke encouraged everyone to come Sunday to see the children's Christmas Musical. Margaret Grant is the director. Parts of the musical also will be presented at the Dec. 19 Christmas Gathering.

Advent, Christmas Eve Services: Pastor Karen described the special services to be offered this month. Wed., Dec. 16, at 6 p.m. there will be a Blue worship service for people who may be unhappy or depressed. She said that it will be similar to a Taize service with prayers and music. There will be one Christmas Eve service at 5 p.m. The service will include music from the choir, bells and congregation, readings of the Christmas story, communion and lighting of candles within the sanctuary.

Advent Studies: Pastor Karen said that both the Wesley Advent study groups have good attendance. They are being held on Sunday and Thursday morning. The book Advent Conspiracy is being used.

Dec. 13 Caroling: Wesley's annual caroling party will be held this Sunday, Dec. 13. People should gather at the church at 4 p.m. Following the caroling Jerry Ludeke will host everyone at her home for a carol sing and refreshments.

Dec. 19 Gathering, Angel Tree Presents: Pastor Karen reported that the Christmas Gathering will be Sat., Dec. 19, starting at 4:30 p.m. The Angel Tree families will be invited. Volunteers may sign up to help on the sign up list in the narthex.

Alternative Giving for Christmas: Anne Scott said that Alternative Giving cards will be available through Sunday, Dec. 20.

Lunch Bunch Day Change: Barbara Knowlton, Lunch Bunch coordinator, said that she would like to move the monthly Lunch Bunch day from Wednesday to Tuesday or Thursday because of the Wednesday night dinners. Days were discussed, and it was agreed that the Lunch Bunch would move to the third Tuesday each month as of January.

Follow Up on Past Priority Items

Dec. 5 Greening Party: Lisa Strobel, Worship chair, said that "we had fun". Toiletries for the Bakersfield Homeless Center were collected that night and may still be brought to church.

Salvation Army \$1 Gifts: Anne Scott reported that four youth went shopping Saturday and purchased \$90 worth of gifts at the Dollar Store. She took the gifts to the Salvation Army center at the fairgrounds. She also announced that Wesley will pack food boxes and Christmas sacks Monday from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Fine Arts building, fairgrounds, Gate 27.

Committee Reports:

Sunday School: Anne Scott said that there will be no Sunday School on Dec. 27 as most of the teachers will be gone. This Sunday the children will get into their costumes during Sunday School. Lisa Neath and Nick Strobel have taken pictures of the children, and they will be placed in holders and hung on the Christmas tree in the Gathering Place.

Adult Education: Already given

Finance: Already given.

Membership: No report

Memorials: No report.

Missions/Social Concerns: Already given.

Staff Parish: Jerry Ludeke, Staff Parish chair, reported that feedback has been collected from Wesley members who work with Pastor Karen, and the end of year report evaluating the pastor has been written and sent to the district superintendent. It is filled with positive comments about Pastor Karen's ministry at Wesley. The committee enthusiastically and unanimously voted to keep Pastor Karen, and the report states that "Wesley will secede from the conference if Pastor Karen Stoffers-Pugh is moved".

Trustees: Pastor Karen commented on Trustee chair Larry Lonsinger's dedication and work, citing his sweeping off all the leaves on the walks following the recent storm.

United Methodist Women: Barbara Knowlton, UMW chair, announced that Louise Clay has been elected president of United Methodist Women for 2010. The new officers were installed during the Dec. 6 worship service. The January UMW meeting will be a field trip to tour the BARC center. UMW meetings are being moved to Thursday morning.

Web Site: No report.

Worship: Already given.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Karen passed out a written summary of her activities since the last meeting. She explained that she will be on vacation from Dec. 25 to Jan. 2. She has arranged for Tricia Nunez del Prado to speak Sun., Dec. 27. She will organize the community dinner on Wed., Dec. 30. Jan. 1 she and Jim will have an open house.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Submitted by: Anne Scott

The next Administrative Council meeting will be Tuesday, January 19, 2010.