

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES  
February 27, 2006

The Wesley United Methodist Church Administrative Council met Monday, February 27, 2006 in the Education Building lounge. The meeting was called to order by Nick Strobel, Council Chair, at 5:30 p.m. Nick opened the meeting with prayer. The December minutes were approved as written.

Administrative Council members present: James Lipford, Marlene Lipford, Larry Lonsinger, Jerry Ludeke, Phil Maxwell, Dwight Reynolds, Stella Rous, Anne Scott, David Scott, Nick Strobel. Council visitors present: Jennifer Armantrout.

**Priority Items:**

Report on Pastor Kimberly's progress: Nick Strobel reported that Pastor Kimberly's recover from ankle surgery is on schedule. She will see the doctor Wednesday to see if she can begin non-weight bearing physical therapy. She still plans to return to the pulpit Sunday, April 9.

Church Responsibilities during Pastor's Absence: Stella Rous, Stephen Minister, explained that the Stephen Ministers have divided up the hospitals and are making hospital calls as needed. Anne Scott, Administrative Coordinator, said that she is handling needed correspondence and has sent out thank you letters to the guest worship speakers and to those persons who have adopted apportionments.

Apportionments Adoptions: Anne Scott explained that apportionments adoptions had reached \$4900 prior to Sunday, and Sunday two families each contributed \$398 to adopt the Kern Mission Society apportionment. This raises the total pledged to apportionments to approximately \$5,700.

Finance Committee Decisions: Nick Strobel, reporting for Finance Chair Sharyn Woods, explained that the Finance Committee met to discuss Pastor Kimberly's request for \$1,000 to support three mission outreach programs: the flooded Vacaville church (\$500), UMCOR (\$250), and CASA (\$250). Pastor Kimberly had believed that there was \$1,000 in the Folded Corner account that could be used for missions. However, Michael Daillak, Treasurer, explained to the Finance Committee that this amount had already been moved into the General Fund and used to pay for last year's apportionments. The Finance Committee proposed that \$1,000 be added to the pastor's discretionary fund to be used for these mission items. Anne Scott made a motion, seconded by Jerry Ludeke, to approve adding \$1,000 to the pastor's discretionary fund to be used for mission outreach beyond the local area. There was considerable discussion about the background for the request, use of the pastor's discretionary fund, and the Wesley procedures already established to handle funding requests. It was pointed out that the pastor's discretionary fund always has been used to fund local emergencies such as a church member needing immediate financial help or a family walking in and requesting gas money, etc. It also was discussed that requests for mission funds traditionally have been met by taking a

special offering during the worship service or by being proposed through the Missions Committee and then brought to the Administrative Council for approval. After further discussion, the question was called. The motion was unanimously disapproved. Nick Strobel said that he would meet with Pastor Kimberly and explain the reasons for the council's rejection of the motion. It was agreed that if any commitment to support the Vacaville UMC has been made, a special offering would be taken and sent to the church. Council members indicated that they would contribute to reach the \$500 that Pastor Kimberly had requested.

March 7 Missions Dinner: Phil Maxwell, Missions Chair, reported that the committee will put on a potluck, March 7, following the Taize worship service. Carol Partridge, missionary from Macedonia, will share her experiences. Members of other UMC churches are being invited. People may bring whatever food (main dish, salad or dessert) they would like to the potluck. The Wesley phone tree committee members are calling families to tell them about the potluck.

Dinner/Auction: Phil Maxwell, reporting for Auction Chair Julia Maxwell, said that auction plans are coming along well. There are 40 plus auction items already donated, and 64 reservations have been made to date. The committee met Thursday for dinner to try out the proposed menu and has approved it. Sufficient persons have volunteered to do the cleanup, but servers are still needed. Teenagers are being asked to volunteer.

Boy Scouts Money: Marlene Lipford said that she researched how Wesley came to have approximately \$800 in a Boy Scout fund and found that this money does belong to the church. It was raised by the church and returned to the church when the Wesley troop was dissolved. The church may do with the money whatever it wishes. There was discussion about the possibility of starting a troop at the church. The Boy Scout organization has a new area representative, and it was agreed that Marlene would arrange to have him speak to the Missions Committee. That committee will determine whether to recommend that the church organize a new troop. In the meantime the money will be kept as is in the Boy Scout fund.

### **Major Discussion Items:**

Lent/Easter Week: Stella Rous, reporting for Worship Chair Anna Murillo, said that the Worship Committee will hold a retreat Saturday with Pastor Kimberly to complete plans for Easter Week. Pastor Kimberly will return to the pulpit for Palm Sunday, April 9. There will be a light dinner and Maundy Thursday service and a 12 noon Good Friday service at Wesley. The Good Friday service will include a tableau that Hank Webb is staging with the youth. There will be a Saturday morning time for reflection in the sanctuary. It is uncertain whether one or two Easter services will be held. Once that is decided, decisions related to holding Sunday School and having the Easter morning brunch between services will be held. Anne Scott said that an Easter egg hunt is being planned for the Sunday School children. Nick Strobel reminded everyone that there will be an Ash Wednesday service March 1 at 7 p.m. Pastor Susan Foster of St. Mark's UMC will lead the service.

**Follow Up on Past Priority Items:**

UMW Dinner: Jennifer Armantrout, representing UMW, reported that the January dinner raised more than \$600, and 50 plus dinners were served.

Wesley Campus Ministry: Nick Strobel explained that two representatives from the Merced UMC talked at lunch Sunday, Feb. 26, about the Wesley campus ministry at the University of California, Merced.

**Committee Reports:**

Education: Stella Rous, Education Committee Co-Chair, reported that the education programs are going well. She is serving as teacher for the senior highs and is having church members talk about their faith journeys each week with the youth

Adult: Stella explained the variety of adult classes that are being offered currently. Nick Strobel and Dwight Reynolds are teaching Sunday morning classes, there is a Thursday Morning Bible study, a Wednesday morning meditation class and the Wednesday night Disciples Study group.

Sunday School: Anne Scott said that the children will be leading the congregation in singing a praise song this Sunday. The children are learning the Lord's Prayer and will lead the congregation in saying the prayer sometime this spring. Jean Ann Lansche will give the children plastic eggs this Sunday, and they will be encouraged to save money in the eggs during Lent. The money then will be presented at Easter as an offering for a mission project.

Youth: The youth are meeting twice monthly with Hank Webb as leader and parents assisting.

Endowment Fund: James Lipford, Endowment Chair, explained that the Endowment Committee is publicizing how people may give to the Wesley Endowment Fund. He has been talking with representatives from First UMC about how they operate their fund, and he will attend a March 19 workshop at First.

Finance: Report already given.

Membership/Evangelism: Jennifer Armantrout said that the Prayers and Squares are almost out of quilts. Most of the quilters currently are out of town or unable to quilt, and she will be working two or three days a week trying to get more quilts made.

Memorials: No report.

Missions/Social Concerns: Phil Maxwell, Missions Chair, explained that Anita Stewart has requested 100 names for the Angel Tree Christmas present program. He said that Ana Lester has lined up 15 people to transport people but the transportation program is not being used. It was agreed that we need to encourage people we know who need rides to call the service.

Phil explained that Pastor Kimberly and St. Marks UMC pastor Susan Foster brought a request to the last Missions Committee meeting. The pastors asked the committee to

endorse a proposed ballot initiative and circulate signature petitions to get the initiative on the ballot. The initiative would provide medical care for uninsured children and would be funded by a tax on cigarettes. The Missions Committee discussed the proposal at length and agreed to recommend to Administrative Council that the church host a forum to explain the initiative. Phil Maxwell moved and Jerry Ludeke seconded a motion to set up a forum that would present both sides of the initiative and to invite members of other churches to attend. The forum would be held other than on Sunday at a date and time set by Phil based on speaker availability. The motion was unanimously approved. Phil explained that this is part of an effort by the pastors to become involved with a national group, PICO, which is being organized locally to provide grassroots power to people.

Staff Parish: The committee has not met since the last Administrative Council meeting.

Trustees: Larry Lonsinger said that the trees by Oglesby and the Gathering Place that needed removal have been removed. A work day is scheduled for Saturday, March 12.

United Methodist Women: Jennifer Armantrout, reporting for UMW, said that the General Meeting program this month would be “Children of the Bible”, and she would be the presenter.

Web Site: Nick Strobel, Webmaster, explained all the links that the Wesley website has and requested that people check their sections of the site and add news. He explained that entering “methodist bakersfield” or “umc bakersfield” on the Google search field is showing Wesley as the first listing which means that the church website (and therefore, information about our church for those who don’t know about us yet) is very easy to find on the web.

Worship: The Bells group requested that the proposed bells concert be moved from March 26 to April 23, and there was agreement that this should be done. Phil Maxwell proposed that the church consider an August arrangement that is being followed by churches elsewhere in the valley. During August churches get together and share the worship service, moving it to a different church site each Sunday. This provides churches with pulpit coverage during vacation time for pastors and gives the churches an opportunity to get together. The idea will be referred to the Worship Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m. The next meeting will be March 20, 2006.

Submitted by: Anne Scott

