

**WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**January 20, 2009**

The Wesley United Methodist Church Administrative Council met Tuesday, January 20, 2009 in the Education Building lounge. Nick Strobel, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Pastor Pam Fine opened the meeting with a prayer. Nick reviewed the minutes of the December 2008 meeting, and the minutes were unanimously approved. There were no additions to the agenda. Anne Scott said that she would not be at the February meeting, and a volunteer was needed to take the minutes. Ruth Shivers volunteered.

Administrative Council members present: Sherry Atkins, Louise Clay, Evelyn Elliott, Pam Fine, Freda Hamilton, Barbara Knowlton, James Lipford, Larry Lonsinger, Jerry Ludeke, Phil Maxwell, Diane O'Dell, Stella Rous, Anne Scott, David Scott, Ruth Shivers, Nick Strobel.

**Voting Items:**

Adoption of 2009 General Budget: Nick Strobel presented a spreadsheet that showed the itemized 2008 budget, the actual 2008 expenditures and the itemized 2009 budget. Pastor Pam announced that Evelyn Elliott has resigned as Finance Chair, and David Scott will take over that position. She explained that she and David met to review the 2009 pledges, and they are talking with people who pledged last year and haven't pledged this year. A Finance Committee meeting was held Sunday, and the proposed 2009 budget was revised and changes made based on revised income and expenditure estimates. This budget is being presented tonight. Pastor Pam explained that in addition to the four weeks of vacation that she receives each year, she has requested two additional unpaid weeks which are reflected in the proposed budget. Jerry Ludeke, Staff Parish chair, explained that Pastor Pam has asked that the staff merit raises voted at the December Administrative Council not be implemented due to the poor economy and budget problems. This also is reflected in the proposed budget. Jerry thanked Pastor Pam for this generous act. Phil Maxwell moved to accept the proposed budget, and Jerry Ludeke seconded the motion.

Nick called for discussion. Phil congratulated the Finance Committee on the detailed budget that was being presented and the obvious work that had gone into developing the budget. James Lipford said that council members need to understand that the reserves are being used as needed to balance the monthly expenditures and may not be available to be used as designated. Pastor Pam said that she had met with Michael Daillak, Treasurer, to review the detailed financial reports and obtain information about certain items. The \$8,000 Sewing Seeds item in Temporary Accounts is a donation that was given during Pastor Kimberly Willis' tenure. It is to be used at the pastor's discretion. In summarizing the revised proposed budget, Nick pointed out that it shows a \$7,355 deficit. A vote on the motion was called, and it was approved by a vote of 15 yes, 1 no, and no abstentions.

**Major Discussion Item:**

Jan 17 Leadership Retreat Conclusions: Pastor Pam thanked Jerry Ludeke for hosting the retreat. She described what was accomplished during the retreat. In the morning participants reviewed the conclusions drawn from the various books read during 2008, the Vital Signs analysis as applied to Wesley, and insights received from hearing and talking with Tex Sample. The participants then broke into four groups: Worship, Christian Conferencing, Study and Prayer. Based on what had been discussed, each group was asked to develop one or two ideas that could be implemented at Wesley during this year. The following was presented:

*Prayer:* Freda Hamilton proposed that a six week study program on prayer be adopted for the Lenten study. She has participated in this program and recommends it highly. The possibility of a Prayer meeting night was discussed.

*Christian Conferencing:* Anne Scott explained that this group came up with five recommendations. The first two concerned shepherding of new attendees and shepherding of all church members, one concerned revising the church brochure, and one concerned establishing interest groups such as a movie group. Nick Strobel explained the fifth recommendation which was to establish covenant groups that would meet weekly.

*Worship:* Sherry Atkins explained that the group was recommending that communion become a part of the worship service each week. The first Sunday would be the regular communion service, and the other Sundays would offer an abbreviated communion service at the end of the regular worship service. The group also looked at other forms of worship services and recommended that the Taize and other type of alternative services be held Sunday evening.

*Study:* David Scott reported that this group discussed implementing short term studies such as a Lenten study, Advent study, Disciple studies, Bible 101 and other topics. The long Disciple study also needs to be offered for people who haven't yet participated in it.

**Priority Discussion Items:**

Living the Questions Class: Pastor Pam explained that she will begin to teach the second part of the Living the Questions course starting tomorrow night at 6 p.m. in The Gathering Place. She hopes that Tex Sample's visit has inspired people to want to attend the classes.

Gathering Place Air Conditioning Update: Pastor Pam and Larry Lonsinger, Trustees Chair, explained that three Gathering Place air conditioning bids have been obtained ranging from \$13,000 up to \$19,000. Pastor Pam has talked to the Kern Mission Society chair about the possibility of getting a grant for the air conditioning. She was told that the church might not be able to get a grant but could apply for a loan. Phil Maxwell pointed out that he and Freda Hamilton are representatives to the Kern Mission Society, and he believes that Wesley could be considered for a grant. A concern was voiced that air conditioning The Gathering Place would result in increased utility costs. Pastor Pam and Larry will work with the Trustees to develop a formal proposal to bring to Administrative Council prior to presenting it to the Kern Mission Society.

Feb. 15 Lunch: Barbara Knowlton, UMW President, announced that UMW will sponsor a Feb. 15 baked potato lunch. Sign up lists to donate food will be posted. A free will

offering will be taken. Proceeds from the lunch will be used to fund UMW mission projects.

Feb. 15 Consultation: Pastor Pam said that she plans to hold a pastor consultation following the Feb. 15 lunch. The topic will be to discuss the spiritual growth programs that come out of the recent leadership retreat. Spiritual growth programs are those programs that draw people into study and prayer beyond the Sunday worship service.

### **Follow Up on Past Priority Items**

Tex Sample Visit January 10-11: Pastor Pam announced that sufficient money had been raised to cover all costs for Tex Sample's visit to Wesley. She has had a follow up phone conversation with Tex and reports that his impression is that Wesley is a strong church. He felt very positive about his visit to Wesley and Bakersfield. Stella Rous, Education Co-chair, thanked all the people who helped with the dinner. There were 90 people present at the dinner.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### Education:

Sunday School: Anne Scott, Administrative Coordinator, said that adults are needed to lead the children's narthex activity that occurs during the worship service. A sign up list is posted.

Youth: Phil Maxwell said that he is figuring out a weekend to hold the 30 Hour Famine program with the youth. Stella Rous explained that while the junior and senior high youth are not involved in formal Sunday School or youth group programs, they are involved in church programs including serving as lay readers, serving in the choir, serving food at the homeless center, and participating in church drama presentations.

Finance: Report already given.

Membership: Louise Clay, Membership Co-chair, said that the committee will meet March 12 to follow up on the programs suggested at the leadership retreat. There will be no meeting in February as she and Anne Scott are both out of town.

Memorials: It was pointed out that the Memorials committee has no chair currently. The nominations committee will fill that position.

Missions/Social Concerns: Phil Maxwell, Missions chair, said that there are no mission programs currently going on. The committee already has agreed to take 100 Angel Tree children for Christmas 2009. Freda Hamilton questioned why there was no Alternative Giving program during the 2008 Christmas season, and Phil promised that the program would be revived this coming Christmas. Anne Scott said that the Sunday School drive to bring in food for the Wesley Food Pantry was going well. It will continue through February. Phil Maxwell asked about the possibility of holding a video conference with missionary Katherine Parker during the 20 Hour Famine. Nick Strobel will try to work with him on this. Pastor Pam said that Katherine Parker has sent her information on how to organize a Volunteers in Mission trip in 2010.

Staff Parish: Jerry Ludeke asked if it would be possible to email the Outlook to people so that postage could be reduced. Pastor Pam explained that a minimum of 200 copies must be mailed under the bulk mailing permit, and that was about the number that is mailed. Jerry suggested the prayers on the prayer chain be emailed to those members who would like to be included.

Trustees: Larry Lonsinger, Trustees chair, said that Oglesby Hall is not being used currently, and he is eliminating janitorial service for it. This will reduce the monthly janitorial cost. The freezer in The Gathering Place cannot be repaired and must be replaced. Larry has looked at a 17.7 Whirlpool freezer that could be purchased for \$700. Barbara Knowlton and Anne Scott volunteered to go look at freezers that they felt would be adequate for the lunches and dinners that they organize each month. They will share their findings with Larry. Pastor Pam proposed that she call a meeting of the Memorials Committee to recommend that Memorials Fund monies be used to purchase the new freezer.

United Methodist Women: Barbara Knowlton, UMW President, reported that a UMW general meeting was held last week, and Louise Clay presented a program on poverty and self denial. A UMW district retreat will be held in March. The UMW board has authorized sending out a letter to all Wesley women inviting them to pledge an amount to help fund the UMW mission projects. Pastor Pam suggested the possibility of an evening circle to attract working women.

Web Site: Nick Strobel, web master, invited people to “check it out”.

Worship: Sherry Atkins, Worship co-chair, said that a meeting will be held to plan for Lent and Easter and to assess the Christmas services and activities. The Taize service will be moved to Sunday evening starting in March.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Pam reviewed a list of activities that she had done for the last month and briefly discussed each. She explained that she will attend a conference in Florida that is held every four years. The theme this year is “Living the Methodist Way”. There will be a guest preacher February 1 while she is gone.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Submitted by: Anne Scott

The next Administrative Council meeting will be February 17, 2009.

