

**WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
March 20, 2006**

The Wesley United Methodist Church Administrative Council met Monday, March 20, 2006 in the Education Building lounge. The meeting was called to order by Nick Strobel, Council Chair, at 5:35 p.m. Nick opened the meeting with prayer. The February minutes were approved with one correction. The Bell Choir concert will be April 30, not the 23.

Administrative Council members present: Caroline Close, Barbara Dethlefsen, Freda Hamilton, Jean Ann Lansche, James Lipford, Marlene Lipford, Jerry Ludeke, Phil Maxwell, Anna Murillo, Stella Rous, Anne Scott, Nick Strobel, Sharyn Woods. Council visitors present: Jennifer Armantrout, Sherrie Atkins

Priority Items:

Report on Pastor Kimberly's progress: Nick Strobel read a letter from Pastor Kimberly in which she reported that she is making excellent progress with her recovery from surgery. She is doing physical therapy with a therapist and at home. She plans to return to the pulpit April 9.

Dinner/Auction Update: Phil Maxwell, reporting for dinner/auction chair Julia Maxwell, said that a 14th table is being added as the event is oversold. Approximately 70 auction items have been donated. This is lower than last year, and additional auction items are being sought. Anna Murillo said that The Gathering Place piano will be used as part of the evening's entertainment and needs to be tuned. Piano tuning is in the budget, and she will follow up on who is to contact the tuner.

Lent, Easter Week Activities: Anna Murillo, Worship chair, reviewed the Easter Week activities. On Palm Sunday, April 9, the children will carry in palms, and everyone is encouraged to bring scarves and wave them. Maundy Thursday will have a 6 p.m. soup and bread supper followed by a 7 p.m. service. The youth will present a tableau at the 12 noon Good Friday service. There will be a 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. vigil on Saturday, April 15. Easter Sunday will have an egg hunt for the children at 10 a.m. and the regular worship service at 10:30 a.m. This will be followed by a reception in the narthex.

Results of Vacaville UMC offering: Jerry Ludeke reported that Wesley donated \$1,052 in a special offering taken for St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Vacaville. The church was flooded this winter.

Apportionments Adoptions: Anne Scott explained that apportionments adoptions had reached \$5,833. She will continue to publicize the apportionments not yet adopted. She explained that money given for apportionments frees up money in the General Fund as Wesley is committed to paying 100 per cent of its apportionments commitment.

March 25 Work Day: Anne Scott read a report from Larry Lonsinger, Trustees chair. The Work Day emphasis will be on cleaning The Gathering Place so that it is ready for

the April 1 Dinner/Auction. Additional tasks will include painting, removing the cooler covers, repairing the water cooler line and checking the sprinklers. Administrative council members had several facilities' concerns that Anne noted and will share with Larry.

May 6 Retreat: A retreat of the Education, Membership/Evangelism and Worship Committees and other interested Wesley members will be held Saturday, May 6, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, at Jean Ann Lansche's house. Purpose of the retreat will be to brainstorm how to serve the needs of families in terms of worship service and Sunday School. Sunday School parents will be invited to the retreat so that they may share their views of the current Sunday School/worship format and time schedule.

March 27 Initiative Forum: Phil Maxwell, Missions/Social Concerns chair, explained that Wesley is sponsoring a March 27 forum regarding the proposed state initiative on health care for children. Pastor Fultz, local chair of the petition drive, and Mike Turnipseed, Kern Taxpayers Association, have been invited to give their views on the initiative. Letters have been sent to east side churches, inviting church members to the forum. Phil has copies of the initiative for any church member who would like to read its provisions.

Vacation Church School: Anne Scott, Administrative Coordinator, announced that this summer's Vacation Church School will be held August 14 to 18 and will have the theme Caring for God's Earth. She is writing the curriculum and contacting groups and individuals to arrange for speakers and field trips. Charge will be \$2.

Plantings: Freda Hamilton, Landscape chair, recommended that plantings be placed in front of the fence separating the church property from houses. Laundry is being hung on the fence and makes an unsightly backdrop. Freda said that 12 shrubs were needed. She also would like to obtain one tree to replace the two that had to be removed. She proposed that this project be funded by having people donate funds for a shrub or tree, as was done previously. There was discussion about what type of shrubs would grow, given the fact that little water reaches that part of the church grounds. Nick Strobel said that he could give Freda a list of native plants that take little water and grow rapidly. It was moved by Sharyn Woods, seconded by Barbara Dethlefsen and unanimously approved that the church go forward with this new landscape plan.

Major Discussion Item:

Future of Folded Corner Offering: Sharyn Woods, Finance chair, explained that it appeared that one-half of the church members believed that the Folded Corner funds went to apportionments and one-half believed that they went to missions. With the church committed to funding 100 per cent of apportionments, a decision needs to be made on where the Folded Corner money is to go. That decision then needs to be publicized. Jerry Ludeke said that it was her understanding that the original intent of the Folded Corner giving had been to fund the mission areas supported through apportionments. She said that this year three apportionments that support missions have not been adopted to date; these are Emerging Congregations, Ethnic Minority Congregations and World Service.

They total over \$8,000. There was discussion over different types of mission projects that could be supported through the Folded Corner. It was moved by Barbara Dethlefsen, seconded by Anne Scott, and unanimously approved that the Folded Corner contributions continue to be used to fund those apportionments that support missions, specifically the Emerging Congregations, Ethnic Minority Congregations and World Service apportionments. A line will be added to the Sunday bulletin that reads: The Folded Corner dollars this year will go to support these mission apportionments: Emerging Congregations, Ethnic Minority Congregations and World Service.

Follow Up on Past Priority Items:

March 7 Missions Dinner: Phil Maxwell, Missions/Social Concerns chair, reported that 35 people attended the March 7 Missions Dinner and program and that everyone felt it was very successful. Carol Partridge, missionary from Macedonia, described her mission work in that country. Phil explained that the Missions/Social Concerns committee wanted to recommend to Administrative Council that funds be allocated for the missionaries who report back to our church. This would establish an ongoing connection between Wesley and missionaries in the field. There was discussion about how this money was to be raised, and it was agreed that an amount for missionaries would be budgeted beginning next year. After further discussion about how to obtain this year's money, it was decided to simply increase this year's church budget. It was moved by Phil Maxwell and seconded by Sharyn Woods that the church budget would be increased by \$300 and that the \$300 would be sent to Carol Partridge for support of her ministry in Macedonia. This motion was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports:

Education: Jean Ann Lansche, Education Committee Co-Chair, reported that the overall education program is going well.

Adult: There are two Sunday morning adults studies classes currently.

Sunday School: Anne Scott said that the children are collecting money throughout Lent, and the funds will be donated to the Jamieson Center to use with the children there. She plans to run a One Room Sunday School program this summer, just as was done last summer. Anne plans to recommend to the Nominations Committee that there be co-Sunday School directors and co-Vacation Church School directors selected for the next year, and that the Sunday School and Vacation Church School directors do not need to be the same people. Anne said that she will continue to serve in both positions but as this now is a volunteer church responsibility, she would like to have another person or persons working with her on these jobs.

Youth: Stella Rous said that the senior high Sunday School class is going well. The youth will fill the eggs for the Easter egg hunt and will hide the eggs Easter morning.

Endowment Fund: James Lipford, chair, explained that the First UMC Financial Worship has been postponed to May 7.

Finance: Sharyn Woods, Chair, reported that a total of 88 pledged have been made for 2006. There were 12 pledges that were not renewed for \$12,240. The result is a net gain of \$16,991.

Membership/Evangelism: Barbara Dethlefsen, chair, said that the church brochure needs to be updated to reflect the current worship time and other items. Anne Scott volunteered to make revisions for an interim brochure to be available by Easter Sunday. Jennifer Armantrout said that five sewing machines have been donated to Prayers and Squares and she is proposing a sew-in for the youth to make quilts to give to hospitals for children. Nick Strobel recommended that she talk to Hank Webb who is coordinating the youth group activities. The Prayers and Squares group held a birthday party today to mark the first anniversary of the group's organization.

Memorials: No report.

Missions/Social Concerns: Phil Maxwell, chair, explained that Habitat for Humanity is losing an income source as IKEA is discontinuing its donation of furniture to be sold. Anne Scott asked why we no longer have the monthly birthday offering for Heifer Project. People agreed that it was discontinued when Pastor Kimberly came, probably because no one explained the offering to Pastor Kimberly. It was agreed that it would be nice to resume this monthly offering, and the 4th Sunday of the month was recommended. Phil will discuss this with Pastor Kimberly.

Staff Parish: Nick Strobel said that Pastor Kimberly plans to call a meeting of the Nominations Committee to select a new chair for the Staff Parish Committee. The committee has not met for several months.

Trustees: Report already given.

United Methodist Women: Jennifer Armantrout, reporting for UMW, said that there are three representatives from Wesley who will attend the district retreat.

Web Site: Nick Strobel, Webmaster, said that sermons are now being posted on the website.

Worship: Report already given.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. The next meeting will be April 17, 2006.

Submitted by: Anne Scott