

**WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES  
May 19, 2009**

The Wesley United Methodist Church Administrative Council met Tuesday, May 19, 2009 in the Education Building lounge. Nick Strobel, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Pastor Pam Fine opened the meeting with a prayer. The minutes of the April 2009 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved. Nick Strobel rearranged the agenda to move to the beginning the four items that needed a vote: Wednesday Night Dinners, Ice Cream Social and Fireworks Show, New Pastor Compensation, and Change of June Administrative Council Meeting Date.

Administrative Council members present: Louise Clay, Evelyn Elliott, Pam Fine, Freda Hamilton, Barbara Knowlton, James Lipford, Phil Maxwell, Diane O'Dell, Anne Scott, David Scott, Nick Strobel.

**Items Needing a Vote:**

Wednesday Night Dinners: Phil Maxwell, Missions Chair, moved that the Wednesday night dinners be continued. Pastor Pam Fine seconded the motion. Phil explained that between 50 and 80 people are attending the dinners each week, and they are marginally attended by people other than Wesley members. Anne Scott proposed that the time be shortened to 5 to 6:30 p.m. rather than 7 p.m. She said that few people came after 6:30 p.m. The Wednesday adult study class could then start at 6:30 p.m., and dinner servers could attend the class. There was discussion about adding the word "free" to the sign on the lawn. It was agreed that the word would not be added until September when people are back from vacation, and there will be sufficient volunteers to handle an increase in people. Louise Clay said that a check-off list needs to be posted to ensure that volunteers clean up the kitchen after the dinner. Barbara Knowlton said that the Food Bank officials have told us that food donations can be arranged if we need additional food. The motion to continue the Wednesday night dinners amended with the time changed to 5 to 6:30 p.m. was unanimously approved.

Ice Cream Social and Fireworks Show: Nick Strobel presented the background and pros and cons of continuing the ice cream social and fireworks show now that Wesley no longer sponsors a fireworks booth. He explained that when the Administrative Council decided to end the fireworks sale, the question of whether to continue the ice cream social and fireworks show was put aside to be discussed at a later time. Members discussed the issue at some length with most of the comments in favor of ending the event. It was pointed out that although the event drew large numbers of people, these people did not then come to any other Wesley events including summer youth activities or the worship service. Cited were ecological and financial concerns and the fact that the people who had previously organized the event would not be in town or were not interested in running the event. Also, the Wednesday night dinners provide an opportunity for the church to minister to the neighborhood on a weekly basis. Pastor Pam moved to end the ice cream social and fireworks show, Louise Clay seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

New Pastor Compensation: Nick Strobel, representing the Staff Parish Committee, presented a recommended compensation package for the new pastor Karen Stoffers-Pugh. Because Pastor Karen is covered under her husband's insurance plan at his work, the cost will be approximately \$14,000 less than what Wesley currently is paying Pastor Pam. If Karen's husband Jim were to change jobs and Wesley needed to pay the health coverage, the cost still would be approximately \$7,000 less as Pastor Pam's coverage includes their son. Pastor Karen's total compensation will be \$52,850 compared to Pastor Pam's compensation of \$67,288. Nick called for a vote on Pastor Karen's compensation. It was approved by a vote of 10 yes and one abstention. Pastor Pam explained that she abstained because she didn't think it was appropriate for her to vote on a pastor's compensation. The item now will be brought to a special charge conference to be held Monday, June 15, 5:30 p.m., directly before the next Administrative Council meeting. Anne Scott will arrange to have Terry Gonzales send out meeting notices to council members and to publicize the charge conference in the Outlook.

Change of Date for June Council Meeting: It was unanimously approved that the June Administrative Council meeting be held Monday, June 15, the day before the delegates and pastor go to Annual Conference.

#### **Major Discussion Items:**

Pastor Transition Process: Pastor Pam said that she is in contact with Pastor Karen, and they are arranging for the moves and for services. Pastor Pam's moving van will pick up her furniture on Tuesday, June 23. Pastor Karen's moving van will arrive Saturday, June 27. In the interval Lisa Neath will arrange for the parsonage to be cleaned. Pastor Pam will preach her farewell service on June 21. David Atkins will preach Sunday, June 28. Pastor Karen will preach her first service on July 5.

Farewell and Welcome Activities: Diane O'Dell, Worship co-chair, explained that the worship committee is planning for the farewell and welcome worship services. After both services lunch will be served. There was discussion about ways to welcome Pastor Karen, and Pastor Pam described what had been most helpful for her.

#### **Priority Discussion Items:**

Air Conditioning Grant: Pastor Pam, explained that the Kern Extension Society is mailing Wesley a check for \$15,500 which does cover the sales tax. Larry Lonsinger has ordered the air conditioner, and it is to be installed the week of June 6. Phil Maxwell recommended that a formal thank you letter should be sent to the society. Pastor Pam will draft the letter, and Nick Strobel will sign it on behalf of the church.

Nominations: Pastor Pam, Nominations chair, said that she is talking to people and plans to present a slate of officers by June 15. She said that when she arrived at Wesley she had been confused because most churches elect new officers to start at the beginning of the calendar year, not in the middle of summer. The Trustees must be approved at the Charge Conference that is normally held in the fall. Pastor Pam said that she is not proposing a change in when Wesley elects officers, but that the council think about it.

Angel Food Ministry: James Lipford, Angel Food Coordinator, explained that Wesley's application to participate in the program has been sent in along with a check for \$50. It will take 10 to 12 weeks for approval. He explained that concerns about the program have been raised and that he needed to share these concerns with us. Larry Lonsinger, who is ill, brought these concerns to him.

1. A lawsuit has been filed requesting an outside audit of the organization's books because of possible financial concerns.
2. The originators draw large compensations in 2006, arguing that they had taken nothing from the organization in previous years.
3. The program originator served time in prison for embezzling funds prior to starting the Angel Food Ministry.
4. The FBI has issued a target letter and search warrant to the Angel Food Ministry. The organization says that this concerns some of the employees, not the organization itself.

Phil Maxwell and James Lipford said that they thought Wesley should continue with the application process. Anne Scott suggested that even if Wesley is approved, start of the program should be delayed until September when volunteers will be back from vacation. It was agreed that if and when the application is approved, the council will have further discussion about whether to move ahead with the program.

Disaster Preparation: Evelyn Elliott, Disaster Preparedness Coordinator, explained that there is no vaccine available for the swine flu. She said that the major concern is if the swine flu were to interact with the bird flu because then it would become deadly. The swine flu is very easy to catch but has a low mortality rate. The bird flu is very hard to catch but has a high mortality rate. Right now officials in Kern County are carefully watching the situation. Evelyn said that the church needs to develop a way of reaching all members by phone or email in the event people are quarantined. She has placed information in the narthex that tells people what to do. She recommended that Wesley become involved with the Kern Leadership Association which combines clergy and county officials in providing leadership in the event of a disaster.

Rummage Sale: Anne Scott, Administrative Coordinator, explained that no one has volunteered to chair the rummage sale. Jerry Smith has volunteered the use of his truck to pick up items. People who can lift heavy items will need to be recruited to assist, as Jerry cannot lift items. There was discussion about the work involved in a rummage sale, and no one volunteered as chair. It was agreed that an article would be printed in the Outlook stating that if no one volunteered to chair the rummage sale by June 1, the sale would be cancelled.

Vacation Church School: Anne Scott said that she has almost all the teachers needed for Vacation Church School. She still needs teachers for the younger children.

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

Sunday, May 3, Lunch: Anne Scott said that the May 3 lunch and scarf sale brought in \$755 for the covenant with Katherine Parker. Only \$45 still remains to be raised to complete the \$2,500 covenant for 2009.

## **Committee Reports:**

### Education:

Sunday School: Anne Scott explained that the 9 a.m. Sunday School has ended, and the narthex program will use the One Room Sunday School materials during the summer.

Adult Studies: David Scott will lead the Disciple Bible Study Invitations to Romans in the fall.

Youth: Pastor Pam said that she has talked with Trinity UMC which has started a youth group, and Trinity will invite Wesley youth and develop a coordinated program between the two churches.

Finance: David Scott, Finance chair, reported that church income is slightly behind expenditures, but it is not a major concern at this point.

Membership: No report.

Memorials: No report.

Missions/Social Concerns: Report already given.

Staff Parish: Pastor Pam reporting for chair Jerry Ludeke who is traveling, said that Jerry has made a contact regarding a future choir director. She said that the Staff Parish committee will probably wait until Pastor Karen arrives to make any decisions.

Trustees: Report already given. It was explained that Larry Lonsinger is quite ill and in the hospital. Prayers were requested for him.

United Methodist Women: Barbara Knowlton, UMW president, announced that the new Salvation Army co-major Carole Abella will speak at the 12 noon Thursday lunch. Everyone is invited to the lunch to hear Major Abella.

Web Site: Nick Strobel, web master, reported that he has added Annual Conference information to the website.

Worship: Diane O'Dell, Worship co-chair, said that everyone appeared very pleased with last Sunday's music program. The committee will meet next Wednesday at 4 p.m. to plan the farewell service for Pastor Pam and the welcome service for Pastor Karen. Louise Clay noted that Del Yantis was very moved with the bells' tribute to his late wife Mary Jane Yantis.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Pam reviewed her activities since the last meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Submitted by: Anne Scott

The next Administrative Council meeting will be Monday, June 15, 2009.