

**WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
November 18, 2008**

The Wesley United Methodist Church Administrative Council met Tuesday, November 18, 2008 in the Education Building lounge. David Scott, Council Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m., and Pastor Pam Fine opened the meeting with a prayer. David explained that Chair Nick Strobel was out of town. He asked the members to review the minutes of the Oct. 21 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously. David asked for additions to the agenda. There was one addition: Missionary Katherine Parker to Visit.

Administrative Council members present: Sherry Atkins, Evelyn Elliott, Pam Fine, Freda Hamilton, Jean Ann Lansche, James Lipford, Larry Lonsinger, Phil Maxwell, Gay Lynne Natho, Anne Scott, David Scott. Visitor: Anna Murillo.

Vote Items: No items

Major Discussion Items:

Development/Review of 2009 Budget Items: Pastor Pam Fine asked members to go through the 2009 Budget Proposal sheet with her. This sheet was developed from budget proposals turned in by committee chairs. She explained the items that were included. The budget will be finalized and voted on at the December Administrative Council meeting.

Apportionments, Missionary Adoption: Anne Scott reported that approximately \$3,000 has been pledged for apportionment adoptions and \$1,500 for support of missionary Katherine Parker.

2009 Auction: Anna Murillo, last year's auction co-chair, reported on plans for the 2009 auction. She said that she is willing to chair the auction again and has volunteers to assist her. She has talked to Bakersfield College about catering the dinner as it did last year, and the dinner cost will be approximately \$2,000. The original plan was to have approximately 18 months between auctions which would mean holding an auction this coming spring. There was discussion about how the current economic crisis might impact donations and bidding and how the auction might be downscaled. It was moved by Pastor Pam and seconded by Sherry Atkins that the auction be postponed to the fall when the economy may have rebounded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Charge Conference Follow-Up: Pastor Pam reported that at the Nov. 16 Charge Conference Fresno District Superintendent Mariellen Yoshino gave her standard Vital Signs presentation designed for all churches. Because there was not time to describe all the work that Wesley members have done with Vital Signs, Pastor Pam will write an Outlook article describing Wesley conclusions. Approximately 15 persons who read the book stayed for the Vital Signs discussion following lunch Oct. 26. Based on their answers to the Appendix 1 questionnaire, Wesley falls into the Retrogressive church

category. The church is stable but not growing and is mission oriented. However, Pastor Pam pointed out that Wesley is more diverse than a pure retrogressive church. Wesley focuses on worship and adult education in addition to missions. Pastor Pam reviewed current church membership figures: as of this date there are 223 members. During this year eight members have died and 10 members have asked to be removed.

Priority Items:

Leadership Retreat: The date for the Administrative Council Leadership retreat was changed from Saturday, Jan. 24 to Saturday, Jan. 17. This will be an all day retreat, and all church leaders and other interested persons are urged to attend. The participants will reflect on what they have learned from the books they have read and will discuss the direction in which Wesley should go.

Salvation Army Gifts: Anne Scott, Administrative Coordinator, explained that the Sunday School children will purchase \$1 gifts for the Salvation Army to give to needy children. Dorcas Circle has donated \$62 for this project, and the children's offerings will be used. It is hoped that 100 gifts may be purchased.

Katherine Parker Visit: Anne Scott reported that missionary Katherine Parker will visit Wesley Tuesday, Dec. 9. Anne will organize a dinner at Wesley, and we will invite other area Methodist churches to join us.

Greening of the Church: Sherry Atkins, Worship co-chair, explained that the church will be greened the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 30. The greening will begin during the morning worship service and continue at a 4:30 p.m. soup supper. Children's activities will be provided at the soup supper. Phil Maxwell explained that he has met with officials from the Bakersfield Homeless Center, and they have requested that this Christmas the church collect and donate blankets, socks, razors and deodorants instead of toiletries.

Christmas Caroling: Anne Scott said that Wesley's annual Christmas caroling for shut-ins will be Sunday, Dec. 7. She will talk to Barbara Dethlefsen about setting up routes.

Angel Tree Program: Phil Maxwell, Mission/Social Concerns chair, requested that the Angel Tree party date be moved from Saturday, Dec. 13 to Saturday, Dec. 20. This was approved. The party will be held at 5:30 p.m. and all the Angel Tree families and Wesley families will be invited.

Christmas Worship Service Plans: Pastor Pam announced that there will be two December 24 Christmas Eve services, a 5:30 p.m. family service with the choir and a 10 p.m. meditative service. There will be a Blue Christmas service Wednesday, Dec. 17, for people who may find the Christmas season a sad time. Pastor Pam said that she and her husband Dan will host an Open House Jan 1 at the parsonage.

Christmas Pageant: Pastor Pam said that she is putting a Christmas Pageant together for the children to perform at the Sunday, Dec. 21, worship service.

Tex Sample Coming in January: Pastor Pam said that flights and hotel room have been reserved for Tex Sample for the weekend of Jan. 10-11. He will speak at a Saturday dinner and preach at the Sunday worship service. She will send out a letter to the people who have attended the adult class “Living the Question” requesting donations to support his visit. An anonymous person has offered to fund up to half the \$2,500 cost.

Nov. 21 Movie Night Update: Jean Ann Lansche, Education co-chair, announced that the movie “Homeward Bound” will be shown Friday, Nov. 21. She explained that when the monthly free movie night was started, it was decided that it would go for four months and then be evaluated. This means that the program will go through December.

Vital Signs Email Discussion With Author: Pastor Pam described how she has engaged in an exchange of emails with Vital Signs author Dan Dick. She has asked questions based on the book, and Dick has emailed answers. From reading the book, discussing it with her study group and this exchange with Dan Dick, Pastor Pam said that there are three areas of interest she’d like to explore further. They are:

1. There needs to be higher expectations of church members. The question is what these higher expectations should be.
2. There needs to be a well defined church reading program focused on spiritual growth of members.
3. Members need to be much more deeply involved in prayers. Leaders need to get together for prayer and have prayer occur throughout each meeting. Members need to learn about prayer and how to pray.

These conclusions will be discussed at the Jan. 17 leadership retreat.

Follow Up on Past Priority Items

Nov. 1 Bazaar: It was announced that the Nov. 1 bazaar made a profit of approximately \$2,500.

Committee Reports:

Education:

Adult: Anne Scott reported that currently there are five adult study classes, the most that Wesley has offered at one time in recent years.

Sunday School: Anne said that Sunday School is going well up through the 6th grade. There are no youth coming for the junior/senior high class so it has been discontinued. The youth will be involved in the upcoming Christmas pageant.

Youth: Pastor Pam explained that she and David Hanley led the youth in a Friday night lock in. There were six youth present. They told the youth about a December youth event at Sanger, but the youth were not interested in attending. Pam said that she and David were discouraged about continuing to provide youth events, because the youth want fun activities but don’t want to be involved with Christian events or study. Pam will discuss this with the parents and ask the parents to organize activities. Phil Maxwell explained that his children are attending youth groups at other churches, and the social activities and meeting buddies are the biggest part of those programs. There was discussion that there may not be a need for a youth program because the youth are

involved in general church programs such as the choir, lay readers, serving food at the homeless center, etc.

Finance: Report already given.

Membership: No report.

Memorials: No report.

Missions/Social Concerns: Phil Maxwell, Chair, said that Wesley will serve food at the Bakersfield Homeless Center Sunday, Nov. 30. He would like to take boxes of cookies to give to the families and invited people to bake cookies for this project. Anne Scott said that she will contact the Salvation Army to see if Wesley could staff a bell ringer site for one or more days.

Staff Parish: No report.

Trustees: Larry Lonsinger, Chair, reported that the Saturday clean up went well. He still needs to work on the gutters to clean the downspouts. He has found that air conditioning The Gathering Place will cost under \$20,000. Pastor Pam asked Larry to bring an air conditioning proposal to the December meeting. She will ask the Missionary Extension Society for help in financing the air conditioning. Larry recommended that we determine what we would do in The Gathering Place if it was air conditioned. Phil Maxwell explained that there are problems with trying to provide solar panels for the church. The cost will be between \$70,000 and \$80,000 because the church gets no tax rebates as it pays no taxes.

United Methodist Women: Pastor Pam said that the new UMW officers will be inducted during the Dec. 7 worship service.

Web Site: Pastor Pam invited people to view and update the website.

Worship: Sherry Atkins, Worship co-chair, said that the new candle lighters have arrived and are in use.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Pam reviewed a list of activities that she had done for the last month and briefly discussed each. She also described her vacation in Ireland.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Submitted by: Anne Scott

The next Administrative Council meeting will be December 16, 2008.

