

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
October 15, 2007

The Wesley United Methodist Church Administrative Council met Monday, October 15, 2007 in the Education Building lounge. Nick Strobel, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., and Pastor Pam Fine opened the meeting with a prayer. Nick reviewed the minutes of the September meeting, and the minutes were approved unanimously. The Administrative Council agenda was approved with one addition

Administrative Council members present: Caroline Close, Pam Fine, Barbara Knowlton, Carolyn Lonsinger, Larry Lonsinger, Phil Maxwell, Gay Lynne Natho, Diane O'Dell, Stella Rous, Anne Scott, David Scott, Ruth Shivers, Nick Strobel, Sharyn Woods.

Priority Items:

Pastor's Compensation: Diane O'Dell, Staff Parish Chair, explained that the Staff Parish Committee was recommending 2.36 per cent cost of living increases for Pastor Pam Fine and Administrative Assistant Terry Gonzales. The total compensation for Pastor Pam, including parsonage, health insurance and reimbursements, amounts to \$80,572. It was moved by Anne Scott and seconded by Ruth Shivers that the recommended compensation for Pastor Pam be approved. The administrative council unanimously approved the compensation for Pastor Pam. The compensation package for Terry Gonzales will be worked out this month. The Staff Parish Committee is looking into the possibility of providing retirement benefits for Terry.

Organist Status: Pastor Pam said that she plans to meet with the new organist Eunice Lee as soon as Eunice is well enough to meet. She currently plans to start mid November. Gail Scarazzo will continue to play the organ until then.

Angel Tree: Phil Maxwell, Missions Chair, explained that Wesley will serve 43 families and 103 children through the Angel Tree program. The tags will go up on the tree Nov. 18. Julia Maxwell will plan the Angel Tree celebration for Saturday, Dec. 15, and both the families and church members are invited.

Alternative Christmas: Phil Maxwell reported that Jennifer Armantrout will be in charge of Alternative Giving and will send out a letter and order form explaining the program.

Food Bank Program: Ruth Shivers, Food Bank Coordinator, explained that she needs someone who would call the Food Bank recipients each month to remind them to pick up their food. There are 40 people on the list. Anne Scott said that she would publicize this in the Outlook.

Oct. 27 Dinner Auction: Carolyn Lonsinger, Dinner/Auction co-chair, reported that there are only three reservations left for the Oct. 27 dinner/auction. The theme is A Night on Broadway. There will be a preview of the auction paintings and photographs Sunday, Oct. 21, following worship. The art work will be hung in The Gathering Place. A total

of 150 auction items have been gathered.

Nov. 10 Bazaar: Barbara Knowlton, Bazaar co-chair, reported that the Bazaar needs collectables that will sell for \$5 or more, books, baked goods and other foods, and crafts. Lunch will be served and tickets are \$8.50. It was noted that the Bazaar was moved from Nov. 3 to Nov. 10.

UNICEF and Halloween Activities: Anne Scott explained that the children will be given UNICEF boxes to use when they go trick or treating on Halloween. They will have the boxes at worship Sunday, Oct. 28, and Wesley members will be invited to contribute change. It was discussed and agreed that the children be invited to wear appropriate costumes to church that Sunday. Pastor Pam Fine proposed that the church hold a Trunk or Treat in the parking lot after church Sunday, Oct. 28. Church members would open and decorate their car trunks and pass out candy. It was agreed that this would be done.

Groups meeting With Pastor Pam: Anne Scott reported that there have been six small group lunches, dinners or desserts held to date, and they included 48 persons. Three small group sessions are scheduled for November. Additional sessions will be held in January-February as needed.

Nov. 17 Charge Conference: Wesley will hold its annual Charge Conference Saturday, Nov. 17, 2 p.m. at Wesley. St. Marks UMC will join Wesley for the Charge Conference. All Wesley members are encouraged to attend, and Pastor Pam strongly encouraged the Administrative Council members to be there. The District Superintendent will meet with the Staff Parish Relations Committee prior to the general meeting.

New Members: Pastor Pam explained that she is inviting prospective members to attend a dinner at the parsonage Sunday, Nov. 4. Seven persons already have confirmed that they will attend. The Membership/Evangelism Committee will assist with the dinner. Pastor Pam will teach a Membership Class on three Sundays, Nov. 4, 11, and 18 during the 9 a.m. Sunday School. This class is open to all people who would like to learn about the United Methodist Church. New members will be welcomed Nov. 18 during the worship service.

Advent Planning: Carolyn Lonsinger, Worship/Music Chair, reported that Advent activities will be similar to last year. The first Sunday in Advent the Sanctuary will be greened during worship, and the Gathering Place will be greened during an evening supper. Toiletries for the Bakersfield Homeless Center will be packed that evening. There will be two Christmas Eve services, 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. Pastor Pam will hold an Open House at the parsonage on New Year's Day, noon to 5 p.m.

Oglesby Hall Cooler: Larry Lonsinger, Trustees Chair, reported that he received two bids for a new cooler for Oglesby Hall. Bids were \$930 and \$960, and he selected the lower bid both because it was lower and because he felt that this was a better cooler. Sharyn Woods moved and David Scott seconded that the cooler be purchased. The council unanimously approved the motion.

Nov. 3 Training Day: Nick Strobel, Council Chair, said that he will be driving to Fresno Saturday, Nov. 3 for the UMC Training Day, and he invited others to join him. The training will be at St. Paul's Fresno, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bill Easum will speak on "The Effective and Faithful Church of the 21st Century".

Major Discussion Items:

2008 Budget: Sharyn Woods, Finance Chair, said that the committee has reviewed the 2008 budget proposals turned in by committees but still needs the report from the Staff Parish Relations committee. She plans to bring the completed 2008 budget to the council for a vote at the December meeting.

Pledge Drive: Sharyn Woods explained that a pledge letter will be mailed out tomorrow. It will include pledge cards and invite people to support Wesley through proportional giving according to income. Pastor Pam and Sharyn will sign the letter. Pledge cards will be received and consecrated during worship on Nov. 18. Pastor Pam will preach on stewardship before that Sunday.

Nov. 18 Pledge Drive Celebration Dinner: Anne Scott passed around a list of responsibilities for the Nov. 18 Celebration Dinner and asked that the committee chairs sign up their committees to carry out a responsibility. Sign ups were as follows: Publicity and Sign Up Lists for Food, Membership/Evangelism; Organize Program and Entertainment, Worship; Shop for Foods and Paper Supplies, Membership/Evangelism; Set up the Tables, Worship and Staff/Parish Relations; Cooking and Serving, United Methodist Women; Clear the Tables, Education and Missions/Social Concerns; Wash Dishes and Clean Kitchen, Trustees and Missions/Social Concerns. Sign up lists for spaghetti sauce, green salad, bread and dessert will be posted. The dinner will be at 6 p.m.

Follow Up on Past Priority Items:

Coat Drive: Phil Maxwell, Missions Chair, reported that 91 coats were given away at the Oct. 19 coat giveaway. The remaining coats were donated to the Bakersfield Homeless Center.

Committee Reports:

Education:

Adult Studies: Stella Rous, Education Co-Chair, reported that the four adult classes are doing well, and the November Membership Class will provide more opportunity for adults to be involved in a study experience.

Sunday School: Anne Scott explained that the children's group in the narthex is steadily growing in size which means that more families are coming to worship. The youth are being invited to take leadership in putting on a Christmas pageant. Younger children and adults will be encouraged to participate.

Youth: Pastor Pam reported that the youth have been involved in two recent mission outreach projects: serving dinner at the Bakersfield Homeless Center and preparing the coat racks for the coat giveaway. David Atkins will work with the students as they take

the Meyer-Briggs aptitude survey at an upcoming meeting and then learn what their answers mean.

Finance: Report already given.

Membership/Evangelism: Report already given.

Memorials: No activity this month.

Missions/Social Concerns: Phil Maxwell, Chair, reported that the committee will provide a bean bag toss booth for the Oct. 21 Halloween party at the Bakersfield Homeless Center. The church will collect hygiene items for the Center and will pack them at the Greening of the Church supper.

Staff Parish: Report already given.

Trustees: Report already given.

United Methodist Women: Barbara Knowlton, UMW president, said that UMW members currently were focused on preparing for the all church bazaar.

Web Site: Nick Strobel, Webmaster, asked committee chairs to review the information on the website and add what they wanted to share about their committee. Pastor Pam asked Nick to meet with the youth group and help them establish a youth group page.

Worship: Report already given.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Pam gave council members a summary page of what she has done since the last meeting. Caroline Close thanked Pastor Pam for starting the weekly Communion Service that follows the regular worship service.

Anne Scott pointed out that she and David will be out of town at the time of the November Administrative Council and that she has asked Donna Adams to take the minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Submitted by: Anne Scott

The next Administrative Council meeting will be November 19, 2007.

