

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
October 21, 2008

The Wesley United Methodist Church Administrative Council met Tuesday, October 21, 2008 in the Education Building lounge. Nick Strobel, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. and opened the meeting with a prayer. Nick reviewed the minutes of the September 16, 2008 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

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

Vote Items: No items

Major Discussion Items:

Development of 2009 Budget and Pledge Drive: Pastor Pam Fine explained that she will send out a letter to members this week that discusses the need for church giving and includes a pledge card. The cards are to be returned during the Nov. 23 worship service. Terry Gonzales will mail budget request forms to all committee chairs and program heads.

Apportionment Adoptions: Anne Scott, Administrative Coordinator, explained that apportionment adoptions will begin Sunday, Oct. 26, when the youth present a skit during the worship service.

Priority Items:

Oct. 26 Vital Signs All Church Discussion and Lunch: Pastor Pam explained that an all-church lunch and discussion of the book Vital Signs will be held following the Oct. 26 worship service. Participants will discuss answers to Appendix 1 in the book. Church answers to the Appendix need to be sent to the Conference by December 15. It was requested that a babysitter be hired to watch the children during the discussion, and Anne Scott agreed to take care of this. Pastor Pam explained that she would like to hold a January retreat with the church leaders to look at what Wesley does now and what we want to do in the future. It was agreed that a retreat would be held Saturday, Jan. 24.

Oct. 26 Trunk or Treat Activity: Pastor Pam invited everyone to decorate her/his car trunk and provide treats for the children following the Oct. 26 worship service. A prize will be given for the best decorated trunk.

Oct. 26 Class on UM Social Principles: Pastor Pam said that she plans to lead a discussion on the United Methodist Social Principles at the Oct. 26 9 a.m. adult Sunday School class. The Democratic and Republican party platforms will be compared to the Social Principles.

Nov. 16 Charge Conference and Lunch: Pastor Pam announced that Fresno District Superintendent Mariellen Yoshino will preach at the Nov. 16 worship service. An all-church lunch and Wesley's annual Charge Conference will follow the service. She explained that Mariellen will discuss with us what we have found out about Wesley, after reading Vital Signs and filling out the Vital Signs Appendix 1 questionnaire. Pastor Pam explained that we don't have to have a 2009 budget prepared by Charge Conference. The budget may be submitted in 2009.

Tex Sample Coming in January: Pastor Pam said that she has made arrangements for Tex Sample's flight and hotel for the Jan. 10-11 weekend. A driver will be needed to pick him up and transport him between the hotel and the church. She said that she would like to organize a party to take him out to hear country western music at Trout's. She will write stories for the Californian to publicize his visit.

Nov. 1 Bazaar: Barbara Knowlton, Bazaar co-chair, described the items that will be offered at the bazaar. She explained that Julia Maxwell will prepare a lunch featuring homemade lasagna. Lunch tickets will be: \$8.50 for adults and \$4.25 for children. Lunch tickets will be entered into a drawing for the Emergency Preparedness food basket. Cashiers are needed for the bazaar.

Monthly Free Movie Night Update: Stella Rous, Education Co-Chair, explained that the first movie night was a big success with 39 people attending. The second free movie night will be held Oct. 24. The movie Escape to Witch Mountain will be shown in The Gathering Place at 6 p.m. Sherry Setser has donated a popcorn machine, and popcorn and juice will be served.

Revised Church Calendar: Anne Scott announced that the church calendar has been revised to add dates approved at the last Administrative Council meeting, and the revised copy was passed out. Members added the Jan. 24, 2009 Leadership Retreat.

Follow Up on Past Priority Items

Workshop to Plan Your Funeral: Anne Scott said that seven persons participated in the workshop to plan your funeral. The participants will hold a follow-up session Dec. 4, and she will repeat the workshop next March.

Fair Trade Coffee, etc.: Phil Maxwell, Missions Chair, said that the Fair Trade coffee and other Fair Trade items are selling well, and Pat Carter has ordered more. Because the items are being sold at cost, prices have been lowered.

Coat Giveaway/Coat Distribution: Phil Maxwell requested that the program name Coat Giveaway be changed to Coat Distribution. He said that twice as many people as last year came to get coats at the Oct. 18 distribution. Most of the coats were given out, and approximately 70 coats still are needed. Wesley members have volunteered to get those coats, and they will be given out Oct. 25.

Solar Project: Phil Maxwell reported that he has researched the cost of installing solar panels on Wesley buildings and has found that the church would not qualify for the tax credits that reduce the cost. This is because the church is a non-profit.

Committee Reports:

Education:

Adult: Stella Rous, Co-Chair, explained that there will be three adult 10 week Disciple Study Psalms classes. Anne Scott, David Scott and Pastor Pam will teach the classes. Pastor Pam will teach a Sunday Morning Psalms class. Nick Strobel also will teach an adult Sunday morning class. This will be a 24 week class featuring the videos “Early Christianity: The Experience of the Divine”. Pastor Pam will offer an evening Living the Question class after she returns from vacation.

Youth: Pastor Pam and David Hanley are working with the youth and will hold a youth lock-in this Friday night in Oglesby Hall. Sanger UMC has a Tongan pastor and Tongan youth who performed at the meeting that Pastor Pam attended. The Sanger church will hold a three day youth event in early December, and our youth are invited. The Bishop’s Confirmation Retreat will be held in March.

Sunday School: Anne Scott thanked Larry Lonsinger for taking the class names off the Education Building doors. These names have been misleading because they did not accurately reflect the classes that were meeting in rooms.

Finance: Pastor Pam explained that \$5,000 income was recorded twice due to a bookkeeping error, and this has put the church in the hole currently.

Membership: Barbara Knowlton, Co-Chair, reported that the committee met and reviewed all the activities and programs that committee members were leading. Pastor Pam reminded the council that the Nominations Committee separated the Membership/Evangelism Committee into two committees. The committee members form the Membership Committee, and she has announced that she needs volunteers for the new Evangelism committee. To date, no one has volunteered.

Memorials: No report.

Missions/Social Concerns: Phil Maxwell, Chair, said that most of the committee’s work has already been discussed. Wesley will have a games booth at the Bakersfield Homeless Center’s Halloween party, and Cindy Wilson will direct the games. Phil explained that the committee is coming into the busy season with various mission outreach activities.

Staff Parish: Jerry Ludeke, Chair, reported that the committee has not met since the last council meeting. While Pastor Pam is on vacation David Atkins will preach Nov. 2 and Mack Phillips will speak Nov. 9. Jerry also will be on vacation, and Pat Carter will assume the committee’s leadership in the event any decision is needed.

Trustees: Larry Lonsinger, Chair, reported that he is gathering prices for air conditioning for The Gathering Place. It has been determined that the existing wiring is adequate to handle three 5 ton air conditioning units, and air conditioning experts have told Larry that only two units are needed.

United Methodist Women: Barbara Knowlton, UMW president, said that new UMW officers will be installed during the worship service Dec. 7, and all Wesley women are invited to a restaurant for lunch on Dec. 8. Lillie Johnson is in charge of arranging for the restaurant. Phil Maxwell thanked the UMW for giving \$100 towards purchasing coats for the coat distribution.

Web Site: Nick Strobel, Webmaster, asked people to check out their areas on the website and email him any changes.

Worship: Sherry Atkins, Worship chair, reported that Pastor Pam is continuing to fine tune changes to the worship services. The youth will be put on a missions outreach skit this Sunday. New candle lighting poles have been ordered. The committee is still working on a proposal to remove the first pew to accommodate the bells table and to move a smaller pew forward to facilitate wheelchairs close to the front. The proposal will be brought to Administrative Council when it is completed. The worship committee will meet to plan Advent activities. These will include the Greening of the Church Nov. 30, a Christmas pageant, Christmas Eve services and a Blue service during Christmas week. The monthly Taize service will be Nov. 4.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Pam reviewed a list of activities that she had done for the last month and briefly discussed each. She said that she is working with a church disaster preparedness committee to begin to plan church responses to a disaster. This will have three parts: How to prepare members, what the church needs to do to communicate during a disaster, and how to be helpful in the community. She met with Pat Carter to start a church and society group that will focus on justice and the United Methodist Social Principles. She explained that the Stephen Ministers met for breakfast at Mercy Hospital, and that Carolyn Lonsinger will coordinate visitors with shut-ins.

Pastor Pam will be on vacation from Oct. 27 to Nov. 10. She will spend two weeks in Ireland. She announced that their country home has been sold so they will not have to travel North as often in the future.

The meeting was then adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Submitted by: Anne Scott

The next Administrative Council meeting will be November 18, 2008.

