

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
October 20, 2009

Nick Strobel, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. and opened the meeting with prayer. The minutes of the September 2009 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved. There were two additions to the agenda: As a major discussion item: 2010 Pastor's compensation and budget request; For priority discussion: Five Practices for Fruitful Congregations program.

Administrative Council members present: Louise Clay, Larry Lonsinger, Jerry Ludeke, Gay Lynne Natho, Karen Stoffers-Pugh, Stella Rous, Anne Scott, David Scott, Lisa Strobel, Nick Strobel.

Major Discussion Item:

2010 Pastor's Compensation and Budget Request: Jerry Ludeke, Staff Parish Relations Chair, presented a written report outlining the committee recommendation for the 2010 pastor's compensation package. Jerry Ludeke moved and Louise Clay seconded that the committee recommendation be approved. It was approved by a vote of nine yes and one abstention by Pastor Karen Stoffers-Pugh. Once approved by Administrative Council, the recommendation goes to the Finance committee to be included in the 2010 budget and to the Charge Conference for approval by the congregation. Jerry presented a written report outlining the Staff Parish Relations Committee's 2010 budget request for staff compensation. There were no COLA increases proposed this year as the economy has declined. Jerry Ludeke moved and Karen Stoffers-Pugh seconded the approval of the staff salary recommendations for 2010. This was unanimously approved. The report now goes to the Finance committee for inclusion in the 2010 church budget.

Priority Discussion Items:

Oct. 24 Coat Giveaway: Anne Scott, Administrative Coordinator, explained that the coat giveaway co-chairs Brent Casper and Jacque Byler had set up the coat racks in The Gathering Place and had organized coats by size and gender. Already more than 100 coats have been collected, and the co-chairs plan to buy more from Goodwill and Salvation Army. Anne requested help with the Saturday giveaway.

Cellular Tower: Larry Lonsinger, Trustees chair, said that he is in communication with lawyer Jay Rosenlieb, and the proposed lease will be reviewed by a lawyer in Jay's office. Larry will bring together a committee composed of Michael Daillak, Lisa Neath, James Lipford, Michael Hurry, Anne Scott, and Pastor Karen Stoffers-Pugh to discuss the lease provisions. Once an agreement is reached, it will take four to six months to obtain clearance for the tower to be built.

Pledge Campaign: David Scott, Finance Chair, reported that pledge letters have been sent out to all members and constituents. Pastor Karen will give a stewardship sermon Nov. 1. To date, five apportionments have been adopted, and approximately \$2,300 has been pledged to support missionary Katherine Parker. Pledge cards should be returned

by Nov. 8.

2010 Budget Reminder: David Scott asked that committee chairs return their 2010 budget request forms by Nov. 1 so that the Finance committee may begin to put together a 2010 budget.

Nov. 15 Celebration Lunch: A Celebration Lunch will be held Sunday, Nov. 15, to conclude the pledge campaign. Barbara Knowlton will organize the lunch. The Finance committee decided to hold a lunch rather than a dinner because older members have difficulty driving at night.

Small Group Sessions to Meet Pastor Karen: Anne Scott, Administrative Coordinator, said that small group sessions are being held to help Pastor Karen become acquainted with Wesley members. They are being hosted by Jerry Ludeke, Lisa and Bob Neath, Lisa and Nick Strobel and Anne and David Scott.

Oct. 26 Bakersfield Rescue Mission Tour: Anne Scott explained that people are invited to join Pastor Karen for an Oct. 26 tour of the Bakersfield Rescue Mission. This is one of the field trips to mission programs that she is arranging during this fall.

Movie Night: Stella Rous, Education co-chair, reported that the Education committee members have decided to suspend Movie Night until January. She explained that the last Friday of the month date conflicts with Thanksgiving and Christmas and is the night before Halloween.

Nov. 22 Charge Conference: Pastor Karen Stoffers-Pugh said that the 2009 Charge Conference will be held Sunday, Nov. 22, at 4 p.m. at Wesley. It will be held jointly with St. Marks UMC. Trinity UMC has decided to hold its own Charge Conference. A potluck will be held, and Karen encouraged everyone to attend.

Angel Tree Program: Pastor Karen explained that Anita Stewart has the list of children who will receive presents, and she is in the process of contacting them. It was requested that the writing on the Angel Tree cards be clearer as it is difficult to read what the children have requested. Pastor Karen said that she would talk to Anita about this.

Alternative Giving for Christmas: Anne Scott reported that she will organize the Alternative Giving for Christmas program this year and wants to promote local charities that are assisting those in need. She said that these charities would be the Bakersfield Homeless Center, Bakersfield Rescue Mission, Salvation Army and Habitat for Humanity. Jerry Ludeke requested that Heifer International be added to the list, and Anne said she would do so. The Alternative Giving table with cards will be set up in mid-November.

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations: Anne Scott explained that last June at Annual Conference she attended a workshop on how to follow up the Vital Signs study. It was recommended that churches engage in the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations

program. The five practices are: Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service and Extravagant Generosity. This program goes for five weeks and includes a study book for small group study, a book for each family to read daily at home, the pastor preaching each week on the topics, and church committees discussing how to carry out the practices. Anne asked that the Administrative Council approve the program for January 2010, and this was done.

Follow Up on Past Priority Items

Katherine Parker Sept. 26-27 Visit: It was agreed that Katherine Parker's visit went off very well. Approximately \$2,300 has been pledged for 2010 to support Wesley's \$2,500 covenant commitment for Katherine.

Oct. 17 Dinner/Auction: Approximately \$9,000 was raised through the Oct. 17 dinner/auction. Everyone who attended agreed that it was a great, fun-filled night.

Committee Reports:

Education: Already given

Sunday School: Anne Scott reported that Sunday School is going well, and that Margaret Grant will direct the children in a Christmas Musical, Sleepover in the Stable. Children must come to two rehearsals on Sunday, at 9 a.m. and during the adult worship service.

Adult Education: Stella Rous reported that the Sunday morning and Wednesday night classes are progressing. Pastor Karen explained that Advent Study classes will be offered.

Finance: Already given.

Membership: Louise Clay, Membership chair, reported that the committee is designing a new brochure and considering token gifts that could be given to first time attendees such as a loaf of bread or a cup.

Memorials: No report.

Missions/Social Concerns: Pastor Karen reported that she plans to organize a "Happy Hour" before the Wednesday dinner when Wesley members could come and socialize. Older members who live alone have told her how much they enjoy the dinners because it gives them an opportunity to eat and talk with other people. The "Happy Hour" would extend this time.

Staff Parish: Report already given.

Trustees: Larry Lonsinger, Trustees chair, reported that vandals have knocked The Gathering Place outside sign to the ground. It will have to be welded upright.

United Methodist Women: Louise Clay reported that the UMW installation will be held Dec. 6 during the worship service.

Web Site: Nick Strobel said that no additions have been made to the web site.

Worship: Lisa Strobel, Worship chair, said that the committee will meet tomorrow to plan for the Advent season. The committee is working on repairing acolyte robes and will make some larger robes.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Karen provided a written report of her activities. She announced that she and her husband Jim plan to host a New Years Open House at the parsonage. She is working to reorganize the youth group.

Louise Clay said that she was concerned about preparing and serving a full Thanksgiving dinner the Wednesday night before Thanksgiving. She would like to serve a turkey soup and corn bread. Council members agreed that she should serve whatever she wanted to serve.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by: Anne Scott

The next Administrative Council meeting will be Tuesday, November 10, 2009. This is the second Tuesday in the month.