

**WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES  
September 16, 2008**

The Wesley United Methodist Church Administrative Council met Tuesday, September 16, 2008 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 August 19, 2008 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously. Nick Strobel reorganized the agenda so that voting items would be handled first, followed by items that only involved discussion or reporting.

Administrative Council members present: Donna Adams, Sherry Atkins, Evelyn Elliott, Pam Fine, Freda Hamilton, Jean Ann Lansche, James Lipford, Larry Lonsinger, Jerry Ludeke, Phil Maxwell, Gay Lynne Natho, Diane O'Dell, Anne Scott, David Scott, Nick Strobel.

**Vote Items:**

Fireworks Sale: Nick Strobel explained that this was an item continued from the August Administrative Council meeting. As decided at that meeting, he wrote an article for the Outlook that presented both points of view in regard to Wesley selling fireworks July 1 to 4. He invited comments and feedback to be given to Administrative Council members. No one indicated that they had received any feedback. The August motion to end the selling of fireworks was brought back off the floor for a vote. Nick stated that he had been given three written proxy votes that he would cast. A vote on the motion was taken. The vote was 15 to end the sale of fireworks and 2 to continue the sale of fireworks. The motion passed, and Wesley will no longer sell fireworks.

Tex Sample: Pastor Pam Fine explained that she would like to bring Tex Sample, a pastor and the moderator of the video series Living the Question, to Wesley. He could come Jan. 10 and 11 and participate in a Saturday dinner and program and preach Sunday morning. Pastor Pam said that she believes that he would generate interest throughout the community. Tex Sample is a nationally known pastor who will speak on progressive Christianity. Pastor Pam presented a written proposal that explained her request. Cost would be \$2,500. The money would come from individual donations and the long range planning budget. After discussion it was moved by Anne Scott and seconded by Phil Maxwell that Wesley bring Tex Sample to speak at the church Jan. 10-11, 2009. The motion was unanimously approved.

Free Trade Coffee: Phil Maxwell, Missions chair, explained that Wesley has been selling Fair Trade coffees, teas and other items that it has obtained from Trinity UMC. This was done to help Trinity reduce its large inventory of Fair Trade items. Trinity's inventory is now reduced, and it is ordering new items. The Missions Committee wants Wesley to begin to order directly rather than go through Trinity so that orders could be tailored to the wishes of Wesley purchasers. The items could be sold at cost. It was moved by Jerry Ludeke and seconded by David Scott that Wesley order Fair Trade items directly and sell

the items at cost. The motion was passed unanimously.

\$5,000 Gift: Pastor Pam explained that Wesley had received a \$5,000 check from A.D. Riley, member who now lives in Tennessee. A.D. and his wife Nell are long time members, and Nell passed away recently. There were no stipulations on how the money could be spent. A proposal was made that the money be put into the Wesley Endowment Fund so that the fund goes over \$10,000 and becomes fully funded. Jerry Ludeke moved and James Lipford seconded a motion that the \$5,000 be placed in the Endowment Fund. The motion was unanimously approved.

Evangelism Program at Redding UMC: Pastor Pam said that former Wesley pastor Marty Murdock had contacted her to invite Wesley members to a workshop that would be held at his church in Redding. Dr. Robert Pierson would be speaking on “Needs Based Evangelism: Becoming a Good Samaritan Church” Oct. 4 to 6. Pastor Pam explained that Wesley’s Membership/Evangelism Committee was being split into two separate committees. Current members would continue in the Membership Committee, and new members would be sought for the Evangelism Committee. The Redding workshop would be an opportunity to learn about evangelism programs. After discussion it was decided that Wesley members should concentrate on current activities such as the Vital Signs study and disaster preparedness and not participate in this program.

Church Meeting Nights: Pastor Pam presented a written proposal to hold all committee meetings one Tuesday night a month at 5:30 p.m., to be followed by a dinner and the Administrative Council meeting. There was much discussion about when various groups meet currently and what would happen if a person was on two or more committees. It was finally decided to continue the current format of meetings with each committee scheduling meetings as needed and Administrative Council continuing to meet at 5:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month.

**Priority Items:**

Worship Committee Retreat: Sherry Atkins, Worship Co-Chair, explained that the Worship Committee held a Sept. 6 retreat. Ten members attended. The objective was to review and improve the worship services. Changes that will be implemented as a result of the retreat include a smoother transition from announcements to worship, taking the offering before the sermon, having people greet each other with a non-specific greeting, holding hands during the Lord’s Prayer, presenting a small gift to visitors, having greeters outside the door, and having ushers guide people who are new to seats. There will be further discussion on how to encourage people to sit in the front of the church rather than in the last pews. One proposal is to save the last row on each side for choir members. The Worship Committee would like to remove two pews at the front to facilitate the bells’ tables and place a small pew in front to accommodate a wheelchair. Sherry Atkins will follow up on trying to arrange the change in pews.

Monthly Free Movie Night Update: Jean Ann Lansche, Education Co-Chair, explained that the first free movie night will be held Sept. 26. The movie E.T. will be shown in The Gathering Place at 6 p.m. Popcorn and juice will be served. Parents will be asked to

remain with their children.

Workshop to Plan Your Funeral: Anne Scott, Administrative Coordinator, described the Funeral Planning workshop that she will present Oct. 2 and 16. It will provide an opportunity for Wesley members to plan their memorial service and will provide an overview of essential information and decisions that must be made related to a death.

Nov. 1 Bazaar: Anne Scott, reporting for Barbara Knowlton, said that bazaar plans are progressing. Barbara and Lillie Johnson are co-chairs, and Julia Maxwell will prepare the lunch. Gift baskets are needed, and members were encouraged to make them or contribute to getting them made.

Solar Panels and Air Conditioning: Phil Maxwell reported that information on costs for solar panels and air conditioning is still being collected. One possibility for funding would be through the Kern Missionary Society.

Calendar Changes: Anne Scott listed calendar changes and updates. A revised calendar will be made available on the website and passed out next month.

### **Committee Reports:**

Education: Anne Scott said that she would call Goodwill or Salvation Army to get the old piano moved out of Room 2 in the Education Building. Margaret Grant has given the church her piano so the old piano is no longer needed. The Sunday School is running smoothly

Finance: Evelyn Elliott, Finance chair, said that the budget is balanced currently.

Membership/Evangelism: No report.

Memorials: No report.

Missions/Social Concerns: Phil Maxwell, Missions Chair, reported on a variety of mission activities. He said that coats are needed for the Oct. 18 coat giveaway. Jumbo sized coats were collected by the youth but all other sizes are needed. Wesley will sponsor a Halloween booth at the Bakersfield Homeless Center. Phil, Pastor Pam and Anne Scott attended a disaster preparedness three day workshop put on by UMCOR at the Los Altos UMC. Pastor Pam will lead a Volunteers In Mission (VIM) team to Cuba in March. Phil will go on a VIM trip to Angola to work on irrigation. A VIM team mission to Cambodia may be organized for a year from now. Wesley will serve food for the Habitat for Humanity work crew at the county fair. Phil discussed a list of Salvation Army outreach projects that church members may participate in. The list will be publicized in the Outlook. He said that the United Methodist Women have provided \$300 to UMCOR.

Staff Parish Relations: Jerry Ludeke, Staff Parish Chair, reported that Pastor Pam will take two weeks of vacation from Oct. 27 to Nov. 10. On Nov. 2 David Atkins will

preach and serve communion, and on Nov. 9 Mack Phillips, lay speaker from First UMC, will speak.

Trustees: Larry Lonsinger, Trustees Chair, said that a fan is missing from Room 1, the room used by community groups.

United Methodist Women: New UMW officers will be inducted during the worship service Dec. 7.

Web Site: Nick Strobel, Webmaster, invited people to provide information for the website.

Worship: Report already given.

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 there are sufficient acolytes that two will be used at each worship service.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Submitted by: Anne Scott

The next Administrative Council meeting will be October 21, 2008.