

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
September 15, 2009

Nick Strobel, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m., and Pastor Karen Stoffers-Pugh opened the meeting with prayer. The minutes of the August 2009 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Administrative Council members present: Sherry Atkins, Louise Clay, Freda Hamilton, James Lipford, Larry Lonsinger, Phil Maxwell, Gay Lynne Natho, Karen Stoffers-Pugh, Stella Rous, Anne Scott, David Scott, Ruth Shivers, Nick Strobel.

Major Discussion Items:

Cellular Tower: Larry Lonsinger, Trustees Chair, explained that a subsidiary of Sprint has contacted Wesley to discuss the possibility of erecting a cellular tower on the property behind Oglesby Hall. The proposal is for a five year lease at \$1,100 a month. It was moved by Anne Scott and seconded by Louise Clay that Larry be given the power to go ahead and pursue a lease agreement, including hiring a lawyer to advise and review the contract at a cost not to exceed \$2,000. The motion was unanimously approved.

Angel Food Ministry: James Lipford reported that he was concerned because no one had volunteered to be director of food distribution for the Angel Food Ministry program scheduled to begin in October. He said that he had asked several people but no one wanted to take on that responsibility. Marlene Lipford would head the order placement part of the program, the other major job. There was considerable discussion about Wesley's overall mission outreach and whether the church already was committed to its limit, considering the number of church members able to volunteer. It was pointed out that another eastside church Canyon Hill is now providing the Angel Food program. Freda Hamilton moved and David Scott seconded that further action regarding the Angel Food Ministry be postponed until January 2010, at which time the Administrative Council would take up the item for further consideration. The motion was unanimously approved. Anne Scott was asked to write an Outlook story explaining this decision. It was agreed that members should be encouraged to volunteer at other sites to learn more about the program.

Priority Discussion Items:

Wednesday Night Dinners: Phil Maxwell, dinner coordinator, explained that there are five dinner team heads: Lisa and Bob Neath, Barbara Knowlton, Louise Clay, John and Stella Rous, and Phil and Julia Maxwell. The goal is to develop five separate teams so people don't have to work every week. Each team needs six to eight volunteers. He passed around a list for council members to volunteer.

Air Conditioning in Kitchen Area: Larry Lonsinger reported that he had talked to a representative from Gundlach about the cost to air condition the Gathering Place kitchen and was told that it would cost \$50,000. Fifteen additional tons of refrigeration would be needed. There is not enough power currently to handle the additional air conditioning

units, and the roof would need to be strengthened. The representative said that most restaurants do not air condition their kitchens. To put in a cooler would cost \$20,000 as it would have to be custom made. Larry explained that when the kitchen is being used the fan mechanisms should be turned on, the back door opened, the evaporative coolers turned on, and the doors closed to the dining area. It was recommended that these suggestions be written down and posted. Larry said that he would come by during the Wednesday Night Dinner and show the teams what to do.

Pledge Campaign: David Scott, Finance Chair, reported that pledge letters will go out to all members and constituents next week. A Celebration Lunch will be held Sunday, Nov. 15, to end the pledge campaign. Along with the pledge card will go an apportionment “adoption” form. Members also may “adopt” missionary Katherine Parker.

Small Group Sessions to Meet Pastor Karen: Anne Scott, Administrative Coordinator, said that a number of small group sessions are being planned this fall to give Pastor Karen and her husband an opportunity to meet Wesley people. Jerry Ludeke, Lisa and Bob Neath, Lisa and Nick Strobel and Anne and David Scott are hosting groups. In addition, the United Methodist Women have hosted Pastor Karen at both the general meeting and circle meetings.

Sept. 21 Bakersfield Homeless Center Tour: Anne Scott explained that this fall she is arranging a series of tours for Pastor Karen and Wesley members to visit community mission programs. The first tour will be on Monday, Sept. 21, to the Bakersfield Homeless Center. Anne will publicize the tours in the Outlook.

Katherine Parker Sept. 26-27 Visit: Anne Scott explained that missionary Katherine Parker and her father Howard Parker will visit Wesley Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 26-27. Wesley will host a Fresno district dinner Sat. at 5:30 p.m. The United Methodist Women will put on the dinner. Sunday Katherine will be in worship, and the church will renew its covenant with her for 2010.

Oct. 17 Dinner/Auction: Freda Hamilton reported that 50 reservations have been made for the Oct. 17 dinner/auction. There are over 140 silent auction items that have been donated. There was discussion over whether people who volunteer to serve the dinner can bid. Council members indicated that they felt volunteers should be able to bid, but the matter would be referred to Anna Murillo, dinner/auction chair.

Movie Night: Nick Strobel reported that the movie Milo and Otis will be shown Friday, Sept. 25.

Follow Up on Past Priority Items

Rummage Sale: It was reported that \$2,300 was earned through the rummage sale. Thanks were expressed to Marlene Lipford and Donna Adams who organized the sale.

Work Day: Anne Scott expressed thanks on behalf of the Sunday School staff to the volunteers who cleaned the Education Building.

Sunday School: Anne Scott reported that the Sunday School is off to a good start. There are three classes: Pre-school and Kindergarten, taught by Lisa Strobel and Louise Clay; 1st through 4th grades, taught by Sherry Setser and Anne Scott; and 5th grade through junior high, taught by Shirley Ahart. Margaret Grant is serving as choir director.

Adult Classes: Pastor Karen reported that the Sunday Morning class is going well and that the videos she is showing are providing for good discussion among the participants. David Scott reported that the Wednesday night class has six members and is studying the Book of Romans in the New Testament.

District Cluster Update: Pastor Karen said that Wesley, Trinity and St. Marks will hold a joint charge conference on Sunday, Nov. 22, 4 p.m., at Wesley. The Tehachapi pastor will lead the charge conference. A potluck dinner will follow the charge conference.

Committee Reports:

Education: Already given

Sunday School: Already given

Adult Education: Already given

Finance: David Scott, Finance chair, said that the church has a \$5,000 deficit currently but he isn't worried as all bills are being paid, and he anticipates additional money coming in as members catch up on pledges.

Membership: Louise Clay, Membership chair, said that the committee will be meeting Sept. 23 to plan for the fall.

Memorials: Pastor Karen said that she plans to meet with the committee. The round tables purchased through the memorials fund have arrived. Freda Hamilton volunteered her husband Bob to put the table rack together.

Missions/Social Concerns: Already given.

Staff Parish: No report.

Trustees: Larry Lonsinger, Trustees chair, reported on repairs that have been made. He has purchased a 12 foot ladder to use in the sanctuary. He said that this ladder is heavier and more stable than the one that has been used.

United Methodist Women: No report.

Web Site: No report

Worship: No report

Pastor's Report: Pastor Karen provided a written report of her activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Submitted by: Anne Scott

The next Administrative Council meeting will be Tuesday, October 20, 2009.