LAITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
JANUARY 10, 2010

Lay Leader Paul Schumacher opened with prayer 12:19pm.

New 2010 Laity Council members in attendance were introduced: Charles Nelson (replaces Ivan Valdes as Church Treasurer and Wayne Bates (replaces Bill Bowmar as UMM President).

Laity Council Chair Phyllis Klock opened with a recap of our last meeting in December at which time the proposed 2010 budget was approved contingent upon the Stewardship Campaign. Once the campaign was completed, a small group composed of Kevin Smith (Finance Chair), Derek Scott (Staff- Parish Relations Chair), Karissa Workman (Laity Council Vice Chair), Phyllis Klock (Laity Council Chair), Nancy Trinchitella (Church Administrator), and Scott Harris (Senior Pastor) met to recommend changes to the budget to the Finance Committee.

Kevin Smith explained that there was a downtrend in giving in 2009, with pledges of $1,330,000 but end-of -year giving projected at $1,110,000. Kevin noted that we operated within the dollars received for 2009 and paid all Conference apportionments and most of local missions. Estimated pledges for 2010 currently are at $1,220,091, with the initial estimated 2010 budget at $1,415,000. Kevin stressed that we will need to be conservative until things turn around. Some revenue items such as fundraising and housing were discussed. The small group considered each line item, noted that many items are "fixed" or nearly fixed and that the amount for insurance currently is an estimate, and adjusted some of the budget requests. Kevin commented that the Preschool is a self-sustaining entity in that it sets its expenses within the amount it projects for income. As a result, the small group did not make any adjustments to this budget. The Children's Department budget was adjusted by $1,000, and Carla Smith already had decided to cut the VBS budget in half. Kevin further noted that staff and apportionments are the largest expense items and that these are not readily amenable to change. There would be no changes in compensation for 2010.

These actions still left a gap of $57,786 between income and projected expenses. The small group proposed and the Finance Committee supported a recommendation that we adopt a temporary budget reflecting an Adjustment figure of $57,786 with the understanding that we would adopt a balanced budget at the March Laity Council meeting. This would allow the small group to review the actual 2009 income and expenditures amounts in late February after the financial books for 2009 have been closed. The congregation would be informed of action through a website video "State of the Church" message that Pastor Scott and Bruce Snyder (Publications) would work on today and through a letter from Pastor Scott. Scott moved that we adopt this proposal, and Karissa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Phyllis and Scott stressed that our budgetary issues present a serious challenge but that the work of the church continues -- maybe in different ways –- maybe in better ways.

The dates for the Council's regular meetings have yet to be established. An e-mail will be forthcoming soon with these dates.

Pastor Scott closed the meeting with prayer at 12:45pm.

Those in attendance: Bruce Snyder, Karissa Workman, Wayne Bates, Kathleen Martin, Phyllis Klock, Gerry McDonald, Charlie Nelson, Dave Brown, Nancy Trinchitella, Paul Schumacher, Kevin Smith, Tom Russell, Dianna Bates, Scott Harris, and Hillary Swengel.

Respectfully submitted,

Hillary Swengel
Recording Secretary