

LAITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MARCH 29, 2010

OPENING:

The meeting began 6:30.

Council Chair Phyllis Klock introduced Wayne Bates (UMM President) and Charlie Nelson (Church Treasurer) as new Laity Council members to those who didn't attend the January special meeting. Bob Burkhart was also introduced as a new Council member as he recently was elected as Chair of the Trustees. As President of UMW Joan Kessler will also be a new member of the Laity Council.

Pastor Scott Harris offered a prayer of dedication for the Laity Council as we begin our new year.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 19, 2009 and of the Special Meeting held on January 10, 2010 were accepted as presented.

ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES:

Phyllis reminded us of our previous training from the Guidelines of the Church Council and gave copies of this document to the new members. Phyllis also noted the importance of attending the quarterly Council meetings.

Phyllis distributed copies of the Laity Council Membership List to each member in attendance.

Our scheduled meeting dates for 2010 will be March 29, June 1 (Tuesday), August 30 and November 29. There will also be at least one called meeting at the end of the year to approve the budget. Phyllis asked that members place these dates on their calendars now.

Meeting agenda will be distributed at least one week prior to each meeting. Please make sure to let Phyllis know if you have anything to add to the agenda.

Bruce Snyder posts the Laity Council Minutes on the church website after they have been approved.

Ex-Officio members serve on the Laity Council as a consequence to their roles within the church. After a discussion last year, we agreed that Ex-Officio members would be eligible to vote to all matters unless the topic would be a conflict of interest for that member, in which case they must abstain.

OLD BUSINESS:

Life Groups --Dennis Stevenson (Education Chair) complimented Jeanne Farmer (Coordinator of the 40 Days of Love) and the other members the Curriculum Committee (Peggy Harris, Scott Harris and Brian Pikalow) for all of their hard work on the small group initiative. Free materials are available for the children, youth and adults who are continuing in the small groups. Next year there might be a pastor's video curriculum that will be cost neutral. Dennis reported that there were 27 groups (293 participants) and that will all be continuing at least on a monthly basis. Some of the extra materials from the spring program will be used in the fall for those who were not able to participate earlier. Another church-wide initiative for the Lenten Season will be scheduled for next year. Scott Harris will produce something for the Advent season. The coaching in place worked well. Dennis reminded us that any materials used in small groups must be on the curriculum list, come from Cokesbury, or be approved by the Committee. Kevin Smith also complimented Jeanne Farmer on the curriculum handouts. Karissa Workman commented that she was extremely excited about the attendance of her small group. She had a total of 16 (13 UCF and Valencia students and Maddie Lee with two of her friends).

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposed 2010 Budget -- Kevin Smith (Finance Chair) reminded the Council of our adoption in January of a deficit budget and of our agreement that a small group (to be composed of Kevin, Karissa, Derek Scott, Nancy Trinchitella and Phyllis) would meet by the end of February to bring a balanced budget to this meeting of the Laity Council. That group subsequently had agreed on two objectives that would guide adjustments to the budget: (1) tithing to apportionments and local missions and (2) retention of all staff without compensation adjustments. Kevin distributed copies of the balanced budget that the group now was proposing for Laity Council adoption and reviewed its highlights. He noted that our electric bills have increased despite the installation of the new HVAC system because electric rates have risen. Budget reductions are proposed for Local Missions and Music. Kevin noted that we will not spend funds that we don't have. Additionally, the small group plans to meet at mid-year to consider any further budget adjustments that may be needed. Kevin then moved that the budget be approved. After a second by Wayne, the motion passed unanimously.

Summer Major Fundraiser -- Recognizing that summer normally brings a decrease in giving, Pastor Scott is proposing a "homegrown" fundraiser in late July or early August to bring in needed cash flow for this time period.

Dream Team Discussions -- At the Charge Conference several members were presented as members of a "Dream Team" Committee to consider where the church wants to go and grow – not just in buildings but also in ministries and focus. Those on the committee are: Pastor Scott, Pastor Brian, Steve Alsene (Chair), Paul Schumacher (Lay Leader), Dallas Wolford, Linda Stevenson, Steve Peck, and Hillary Swengel. Dave Brown asked about the church extension, and Pastor Scott indicated that this is still under consideration at the District and Conference levels.

UPDATES:

Finance – Kevin reported that we are getting by, with giving close to that of last year at this time.

Trustees -- Chair Bob Burkhart reported that there are two leaks in the roof overhangs. Ben Celones is working with contractors and anticipates that the price will be between \$29,000-41,000. Although we are due for our annual fire inspection in April, this probably will be moved to May. The convection oven is not in compliance with the building codes and will need its own hood. It also must be moved because the stove must be moved. There will be a church clean-up project organized by UMM on April 10th beginning at 9:00 am. The main project will be to remulch the playground area. The City of Maitland, under advice from an arborist, is looking for us to remove the tree in the courtyard.

Staff-Parish – Nothing to report.

Youth – Youth Director Greg Johnson reported that the youth have started a Praise Band, which will debut at the Easter Festival on Saturday. Things are headed in a positive direction. There is a good parental volunteer base. The numbers aren't huge, but the relationships are growing. Greg also indicated that he is learning much from YMI training.

OTHER:

Kathleen Martin (Church Visitor) and Pastor Scott reported on the necessity of a revival of the Stephen Ministry. Those who have been trained are very committed. Please pray for Stephen Ministry leader and for at least three more trained Stephen Ministers. Until that time, Rick Johnson (Counseling Center, who is a Stephen Minister) has agreed to help with this ministry.

After Easter, a group lead by Chad Childs, Bob Goodin, Marshall Dancy and Dennis Stevenson will make improvements to the lakeside area cross. They also plan to pressure-wash the area before Easter

Carla Smith (Director of Children's Ministries) has recommended that Wednesday Night Live begin in September. Summer activities will include VBS, Sports Camp, Music Camp, Surf Camp and Youth Week. Honor the Badge will be held once again in September.

OTHER:

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, June 1st.

CLOSING PRAYER:

Our meeting ended at 7:39pm. after Pastor Scott gave the closing prayer.

ATTENDANCE:

Phyllis Klock, Kevin Smith, Dave Brown, Bruce Snyder, Charlie Nelson, Bob Burkhart, Wayne Bates, Dianna Bates, Greg Johnson, Dennis Stevenson, Jerri Rickard, Kathleen Martin, Karissa Workman, Scott Harris, Paul Schumacher, Cutler Brice, Hillary Swengel.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hillary Swengel
Recording Secretary