

LAITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OCTOBER 19, 2009

The opening prayer was given by Chair Phyllis Klock at 6:45pm

We welcomed Kathleen Martin, Lay Minister of Congregational Care, as a new member of the Laity Council, as determined at our last meeting.

A round of applause was given to Paul Schumacher for the good job he did as preacher yesterday (Laity Sunday).

We welcomed Cutler Brice as the new Youth Representative to the Laity Council. (Greg Johnson, Youth Director, is still recovering from his shoulder surgery on Thursday and thus was unable to present Cutler to the Council.)

The minutes from our last meeting were approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

Education Chair Dennis Stephenson reminded us that the first two training sessions for our Small Group Emphasis had to be postponed but will be rescheduled for January 9th and January 23rd. The sessions will be held from 9:00 am. to 2:00 pm with lunch provided. Jeanne Farmer has been selected as our new part-time employee to head the program. She will be assisted by Peggy Harris. The program is entitled "40 Days of Love." It will begin on February 14th and end at Easter. The hope is to start new groups every Lent.

Phyllis reported that Pastor Scott and Pastor Brian had a recent meeting with the District leadership regarding new church development. She indicated that we are still in a holding pattern and that we want to be deliberate in any actions that we take. Especially given the current national economic conditions, we need to assess the financial health and strength of Asbury and the District before moving forward. If it is in God's will, it will happen.

NEW BUSINESS:

On November 1st Asbury will host the joint Charge Conference for Aloma, Community, First Winter Park, Saint Andrews, Tuskawilla, Genesis and Asbury from 6:00 pm. to 8:00 pm. Church Administrator Nancy Trinchitella reported that this is to be a celebration of the gathering of seven churches in the same geographic area with a common worship and communion service before each church conducts its own business. There will be a gathering time in the courtyard after the business is completed. The Charge Conference is required to approve all appointed pastor's

salaries, leadership, and candidates for ministry and lay speakers. Pastor Scott has indicated that there have been many positive responses from new leaders.

Finance Chair Kevin Smith reported on the proposed 2010 budget, which reflects an increase from the 2009 budget but is fairly similar to the budget for 2008. This budget will remain tentative until the conclusion of the stewardship campaign. The Laity Council will have a called meeting sometime in December to consider any adjustments that may be recommended by the Finance Committee following the campaign. After careful consideration at that meeting, the Laity Council will vote on the final budget. Even after that budget is implemented, we won't spend what we don't have.

The Council engaged in a very full discussion of the proposed budget. We have not yet received the Conference Apportionments for 2010, but Nancy has projected for a likely increase. She reminded the Council that for 2009 the Florida Conference had rolled back its portion of the apportionments to the 2008 figures. Questions were raised about Greg's salary, and we were reminded he was part-time at the beginning of this year and is now full-time. There is a slight increase in Local Missions. Staff-Parish Relations Chair Derek Scott reported that the proposed 5.4% increase in Staff Compensation includes the new part-time small group position, the Youth Director change from part- to full-time, Kathleen's changed position, anticipated increases in medical coverage and an overall 2% increase for all the staff. Another question arose about the cost of Greg's training through the Youth Ministry Institute, which is \$5,500 per year for two years. Greg already has begun this program, which will lead to a certificate. The Head of the Institute, Steve Schneeberger, will be sharing more about this program at an upcoming meeting.

The Discipline states that all appointed pastoral compensation information must be published. The compensation packages for any non-appointed employees are not published, with the details known only by the Staff-Parish Relations Committee and Nancy. Furthermore, the Charge Conference votes on the compensation package for all appointed pastors. The timing of this requirement is challenging because we won't have completed our stewardship campaign by the time of our Charge Conference. Should a decision be made to alter pastoral compensation after the Charge Conference we will not need to hold another Charge Conference but rather to complete a special form. Last year, Pastor Scott opted to not accept his proposed increase. The compensation proposal for 2010 is \$89,044 for salary, \$34,670 for housing allowance, \$5,250 for reimbursables (which includes mileage reimbursements and continuing education expenses) and \$14,846 CRSP. Pastor Scott is choosing to designate \$13,000 of his salary as housing allowance exclusion. A motion was made by Derek and seconded by Dennis to accept Pastor Scott's proposed compensation package and forward it to the Charge Conference. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Yvette Pond, Director of Sonbeams, was acknowledged for maintaining her budget and making a profit. There is a proposed increase in the Worship budget and a proposed increase in the Music budget to allow for bigger Easter and Christmas productions in 2010 as compared with the last two years. The proposed budget for Segue will be used

for the Tweeners groups. (The Segue name is no longer used for the College/Career-age group.)

Celebration is requesting renovations to the Fellowship Hall. This project previously was put on hold because of the economy and the HVAC project. The most urgent request is the flooring, which would cost approximately \$5,000. There was some concern as to the wisdom of replacing the flooring in view of possible building projects that may be recommended by the "visioning group." We are now taking bids for a new lawn care group. The budget projects increases in our utilities costs because although the HVAC project is kilowatt hours pricing has increased. A possible Trustee project to install automatic shut-offs for lights and the like based on sensors and motion detectors was mentioned. Nancy reported that energy efficient bulbs are being installed every time a light bulb needs to be changed.

Karissa Workman moved approval of the proposed budget. The motion was seconded by Paul Schumacher and passed unanimously,

Kevin Smith then reported on the Stewardship Campaign plans. The sermons on November 1, 8, and 15 will be on giving and stewardship. Commitment Sunday will be November 15. There will be a letter sent out to everyone in a week or so, with the focus on various ministries. A special video will be shared on November 1st. Campaign follow-up will be on November 22nd, after which the Finance Committee will consider any needed changes and will present a proposed final budget to the Laity Council.

Phyllis indicated that the March to the Manger is not part of the budget. Pastor Scott would like for half of the funds raised in the March to the Manger to be designated for the Counseling Center (to cover the fees for persons needing financial assistance) and the other half to be used for some yet-to-be-determined outreach project.

Kevin also reported that giving is \$76,000 behind last year. Money is tight, and Nancy is continuing to carefully manage expenditures.

The Council discussed our greeting and dismissal practices in view of the flu season concerns. Pastor Scott has reported that some members are waiting to arrive at the service until after the greeting and then are leaving early so that they don't offend anyone who by not shaking or holding hands. Various alternatives were considered. Dennis recommended no contact at all during the height of the flu season and that more hand sanitizer to be available and visible. The staff will consider this issue further and develop new greeting and closing procedures for this period.

It was reported that the Youth will travel to New Smyrna Beach to visit Pastor Molly on November 15th.

UMM President Bill Bowmar shared that their golf tournament is this weekend. This is the sole annual fundraiser, and they have only 50 commitments so far as compared to 100 participants last year. The \$60 price is the same this year and includes the golf

fees and a meal. The annual retreat to Leesburg was well attended. The last UMM activity of the year will be the football game between UCF and Houston on Homecoming weekend. There will be a breakfast tailgate beginning at 9:00 am with the Wesley Foundation. The game begins at noon. There are still many tickets available for \$20 each for end-zone seats. They will try to establish carpools to the game.

UMW President Gerry McDonald reported that the revenue from the bake sale at the Craft and Bake Sale this past weekend was \$2,400. She didn't know what their expenses were yet. Most vendors did very well. They may try to limit the types of vendor to four each next year.

Bruce Snyder reported that the canned food drive began last Sunday and will last through November 15th. The recipients will be the same as before (Jewish Family Services of Winter Park and Christian Sharing Center of Longwood). Our goal is 3,000 individual items.

Kudos were given to Bruce Snyder for all his work on the bulletins and now DVDs of the whole worship service. Bruce said there are openings on the Video Ministry team. Paul also thanked Bruce for all his help in the set up for his sermon during Laity Sunday.

The next meeting will be scheduled once the Finance Committee has a proposed final budget.

Dr. Paul Schumacher closed us in prayer.

We adjourned at 8:17pm.

Those in attendance: Phyllis Klock, Karissa Workman, Gerry McDonald, Kevin Smith, Nancy Trinchitella, Dave Brown, Derek Scott, Kathleen Martin, Bruce Snyder, Paul Schumacher, Dennis Stephenson, Bill Bowmar, Cutler Brice, and Hillary Swengel.

Hillary Swengel,
Recording Secretary