

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING JULY 21, 2011

Sue Wright, Chair, called the meeting to order; Rev. Hubbard led us in prayer. Bill Welsheimer moved the minutes from the May 19, 2011 meeting be approved as corrected. Catherine VanDenDriessche's name was omitted. Jerry Langley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Church Council Restructuring: Norm Forrest presented a proposal for restructuring the Church Council to move forward into 2012. The Council would be made up of divisions. Committees and work teams would be assigned to a division by the Council. The Council would meet every month. It is hoped the reconstruction would result in better communication. The revision would take effect Jan. 1, 2012. Norm and his committee were asked to continue pursuing the reconstruction. Sue Wright thanked Norm for all of his work. A vote was taken for the restructuring of the Church Council and it passed unanimously.

Trustees: Aaron Johnson, Chair of the Trustees, reported the sound system is up and running. PVC pipe has been placed in the garden and is being tested. Operation upgrade has received pledges of \$101,000.00 of the \$200,000.00 goal. Roofing materials have been purchased prior to the price increase; the current material cost is \$29,700.00. After discussing the various options of paying, Aaron moved \$29,700.00 be borrowed from the Central Fund at a 4% interest rate and be repaid over a short-term basis into the Central Fund. Pauline Medhurst seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The roof needs to be done before winter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

UMW: Helen Banas reported the UMW had a June outing at Winona Lake Village Shops. School of Christian Mission is being held July 26-30 at DePauw University.

Worship: Laurel Thomas stated volunteers are needed to help with the screens used for worship.

Missions: Karen Anderson reported the Food Pantry has been very busy. Commodities were just received. There will be a Chili Supper, Oct. 14, 2011 to benefit the Upper Room. A silent auction will also be held at the event.

Education: Pauline Medhurst, Education Chair, reported the inventory of adult materials is mostly done, and a materials fair will be held July 27, 2010, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Announcement boards are being placed in front of each classroom and will show presenters, topics, and other class announcements. Rally Day will be held Sept. 11, 2011 and immediately following the 11:00 worship service there will be an ice cream social. There will be an Old Testament Bible study Oct. 2 through Nov. 20. This will be an introductory study for new members and others who have not had a Bible study before.

Memorial Committee: Mary Gergesha, Chair, reported the committee is working on the possibility of new signage, altar cloths, and lighting of the windows in front of the church in the evening.

Welcoming Committee: Linda Phillips reported there were 71 in attendance at the first park service on June 5th. There are pictures in the Gathering Room. We are averaging 49 at first service and 89 at the second service in summertime. Nine new members have joined the church. Our 180th anniversary celebration will be held Oct. 9th. There will be a potluck with a hymn sing at both services. We have 84 fifty-year-members. They will be invited to attend and transportation will be provided as needed. Deborah Mayers will provide decorations and help with food. Our DS, Cindy Reynolds, will attend. Linda reminded everyone to WEAR NAME TAGS.

Finance Committee: Jerry Langley, Finance Chair, reported money is “very tight”. He stated paying out less in salaries is helping; however, we have hired an Associate Pastor, and we will be paying an Organist. The Upper Room has \$12,000 expenses over revenue currently. As stated above, a fundraiser is being worked on. The committee is working on options to assure the \$200,000.00 needed for Operation Upgrade. As stated above, we have \$101,000.00 pledged to date. Possible use of the Trinity Trust Fund for maintenance, additional pledges to Operation Upgrade, other financing as possible credit lines through First Source and Wells Fargo along with financing through the Methodist Church Foundation are all being pursued as possibilities. If we would find \$200,000 through other sources, hopefully those making pledges would not withdraw their money but leave it to build up a fund.

Discussion of a willed donation of \$20,000.00 followed. It was moved that 50% of the memorial gift be used for an outdoor digital sign and the other 50% be placed in the operation fund. The motion passed unanimously. There will be a meeting with Noel Yarger on Monday, July 25th, to discuss the digital sign.

Wills and Legacy Committee: Bill Welsheimer, Chair, stated working with the Trinity Trust Fund is very frustrating. There are different interpretations. Capital gains are not touchable.

Pastor's Report: Rev. Hubbard stated she was approached to see if the church would host "Memoirs of Jesus". Costs would be covered. We would help with publicity.

The next council meeting will be held September 15, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.