

Minutes
Administrative Council Meeting
May 6, 2003

Next Administrative Council Meeting September 8, 2003, at 7:30 P.M.

Pat Del Camp called the meeting to order at 7:30. She turned the meeting over to Wayne Richmond who introduced us to the Charles Wesley opening hymn, "O Come and Dwell with Me."

Devotions: Sandra Ruark read a poem, "God is at the Window" which tells of a young boy who accidentally killed a duck and was filled with guilt until he told his Mother. She said she had seen the incident as she watched from the window. She forgave him as God forgives and forgets when we sin. She read another poem, "What is a Mother?" in commemoration of Mother's Day on Sunday.

Pat Del Camp welcomed the confirmands who were unable to attend the March Council meeting. She also urged all Council members to pick up the printed handouts on the table where they entered Corson Hall.

Minutes of the March 3 Administrative were approved as handed out early in the meeting.

Senior Minister—Rev. George Morris highlighted some items on his written report. He emphasized that all issues need to be voted and approved by members of the Administrative Council, noting that sometimes we hear of a report that a committee has made a decision on some matter. Rev. Morris thanked Bill Faust for his time in working as a janitor and for presenting a job description to fill that position. Four people applied and we hired two people—James (Jimmy) Kennedy and James (Jim) Brown as part-time employees.

Apportionments: Rev. Morris shared with us a letter sent to us by Rev. Ronald B. Watts, Gateway South District Superintendent, thanking our church for 100% apportionment giving last year. He also sent us a Certificate of Appreciation which will be maintained with our Administrative Council Minutes.

A representative team from the Finance Committee attended a recent meeting sponsored by the Greater New Jersey Conference Council on Finance and Administration to discuss issues of "Shared Ministries" and local church ministry. The main point our representatives made was the fact that "while our income is going down, apportionments are going up". The Annual Conference will decide the budget and in that process consider both the needs of local churches and GNJAC connectional ministries.

Capital Campaign: Jere Estes, Chairperson, and Rev. Morris have been working to identify and invite additional people to serve on the Capital Campaign Committee as we try to find a way to raise the money that is needed to raise the \$6.9 million needed for the building and renovation program. He emphasized that the building is not simply about "bricks and mortar," it is about fulfilling our mission to make disciples for Jesus Christ and being good stewards of the gift we have been given.

Ministry Initiatives: Working with Karen Becker, a number of healing/helping ministries for congregation and community are being planned for the Fall. One feature will be a weekly Healing Service on Wednesdays at 7 P.M. in Brown Chapel. Support groups and learning opportunities on issues related to spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being will be offered at 7:30.

Ed Spragg and Karen Becker are developing recommendations for a logo (branding image) to be considered by the Evangelism Team. The weekly bulletin, letterhead and other literature produced for church programs will carry a “new image” that communicates the spirit of HUMC.

Worship Services: There will be no changes made in the worship schedule for the summer. It is felt there is no good rationale for changing the times for worship for a two or three month period. We will stay with 6 P.M. on Saturdays and 8, 9:30 and 11 A.M. on Sundays.

Attendance at our “Celebration! Kindle the Spirit” service is around 130 people each week. Our target is: unchurched people of all ages who are attracted to a style of worship that is an alternative to traditional, people who want the 9:30 hour on Sunday, and people from other congregations who are seeking a vital and growing Christian community and do not experience spiritual nurture in their present congregation.

Our World--the arena in which we do ministry: Rev. Morris received an e-mail from one of our members, stating statistics which were compiled by Ted Olsen and found on the “Christianity Today” web-site. They are responses to the question: What percentage of Americans say they are spiritual but not religious?

- 86% of Americans believe in a God who answers prayers.
- 45% of Americans say their personal views guide them more than do God and religious teachings.
- 50% of Americans describe themselves as “religious.”
- 33% of Americans say they are “spiritual but not religious” (11% said neither, 4% said both).

The Financial Challenge: HUMC continues to be challenged by the ratio of costs for doing ministry and income to support what God is calling us to do. Financial giving is slightly below last year’s level. The 2003 budgeted amount for heating the facilities was consumed by March 31 and snow removal costs were also more than projected. The Finance Team is holding a special meeting on May 12 to evaluate the situation. The Stewardship Team will be using all new resources for the campaign in the Fall.

Gratitude was expressed by Rev. Morris for the many people who give their time and gifts for ministry in the work of our congregation. He also expressed gratitude for vacation and renewal time.

Rev. Joan Hutchinson spoke of some of the items on her written report. Joan expressed thanks to Connie Windus for her leadership in all three Alpha classes. She recently attended a retreat and had a wonderful time-sharing with the class members as they are learning about our Theology.

A New Member Class will be starting May 21.

We are looking for two more couples to help with our Pre-Marriage Classes, which will begin again in September. If interested, please see Craig or Mary Anne Myers and /or Gail or Susan Childers. The evaluations are in, and most of the couples were really appreciative of our church offering these classes. They felt they were very valuable and made them talk about what happens after the ceremony, which most couples spend countless hours planning, with little thought about life afterwards.

The Evangelism/Outreach Team is always busy. Joan gave her heartfelt thanks to Jerry Reynolds and the "team" for all their hard work this past year, especially with the Tony Campolo Weekend, the after church coffee fellowship time, the parking lot greeters, our public relations/marketing team, and our bread ministry team. A special thanks was given to Brad Creamer for getting the United Methodist Men started again. We are hoping to get a float in the 4th of July parade this year to let folks know our church is here.

There is a great need for people who feel God tugging at their hearts to be Stephen Ministers. Training will begin this fall. You need to be a person with a caring heart, attend 50 hours of training, and meet twice a month afterwards for continuing education and support. You meet with your care receiver once a week for one hour or less depending on the situation. It is a very rewarding experience and your commitment is for only two years. We especially need men. So far we only have one male Stephen Minister. Joan asked that we pray about this and contact Audrey Frank or Joan.

As an item of **New Business**, there was discussion about increasing Joan Hutchinson's Housing Allowance to \$20,000 for the balance of 2003. A motion was made, seconded and passed to authorize an increase of the Housing Allowance to \$20,000 for the balance of 2003. Under Section 1107 of the Internal Revenue Code, an ordained minister of the gospel is allowed to exclude from gross income the housing allowance paid to him/her as part of his/her compensation to the extent used by him/her for expenses incurred in connection with improvement to his/her housing, replacement of church owned property, services in connection with his/her housing but not paid by the church, or other living expenses.

Rev. Champ Goldy also expressed a need for more Stephen Ministers so people unable to get out to our church services can have more contact with the church. He knows of one woman who is very appreciative of the Stephen Minister who visits her. He spoke of a need for a phone with amplifiers for folks who have a problem with their hearing. Someone noted that Radio Shack has such a phone.

He asked for some help finding work for two folks who have given him their resumes. One is an electronic technician and one is trained as a paralegal.

Wayne Richmond, Music Ministry Chairperson shared the fact that there are two more events that are on the calendar for this Spring. First, is the MasterChorale concert "Spring Is in the Air" on May 16 at 7:30 P.M. The first part of the concert will be music to be sung at Washington National Cathedral as part of the New Jersey Day celebration. The MasterChorale has been invited to represent our state musically with a 25-minute concert on Sunday morning, May 18 at 10:30. Wayne thanked David Van Sciver for his input. New Sound will present a concert on June 22 at 7:30 P.M. The featured piece for that evening will be "Celebrate Life."

Wayne reflected on the past season, saying perhaps the largest new ministry is the 9:30 worship service. There are now 24 people involved in the leadership of that service plus clergy. Several people who have not been involved in the music ministry previously have "joined the ranks." Music leadership involves 8 singers and 8 instrumentalists. There are 8 people involved in the production end including sound and video.

September 11 was marked by a concert by the MasterChorale and members of other choirs. It was a moving event remembering those that were lost the previous September 11.

HUMC had a high visibility during the Lenten season. The Choir of Men and Boys from All Saint's Church, Richmond, Virginia, sang an Evensong service, the Children's Choirs presented

music during worship on Sunday, March 20, there was a procession on Palm Sunday, complete with donkey through downtown Haddonfield, a meditative Maundy Thursday, a powerful Good Friday with the "Seven Last Words" and meditations by Haddonfield clergy, and finally a celebrative Easter, with a jam packed sanctuary for the 11 A.M. worship.

Wayne gave special thanks to those contributing to the Music Ministry: Sue and Jack Shaw with New Sound Choir, Nancy Leong with the Children's Choir and Ann and Ken Hall for the bell choir. He also thanked all church for their support.

Dan Stephens, Director Youth Ministry highlighted some items from his written report. He invited San Rotz, a confirmand, to speak about his experiences in the confirmation class. He thanked the church for being able to attend Keswick. He thanked Dan for the creative ways he has for teaching about things in the Bible and he is enjoying learning how the church works. All has been a "cool" experience. The class will travel to our nation's capital for a weekend that includes participation in New Jersey Day and Pilgrimage to the National Cathedral May 17 and 18. They will have recreation time and lessons on "Faith & Belief" while they are there. Youth will design and walk in their own banner as part of New Jersey Day at the Cathedral. June 8 is Confirmation Sunday.

Dan will continue to work on the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference Youth Weekend Design Team as preparations are made for Ocean City Weekend in September 2003. A seminar led by Dennis Blackwell about cultural diversity has been proposed.

Our youth will partner with the American Cancer Society and participate in their "Relay for Life" May 31/June 1 at the athletic field at Cherry Hill West. Our New Sound Choir will sing at the opening and our youth will provide a morning vesper service and our Prayer Station. During the entire 16 hours our team will have at least one of our members walking the track. Our goal is to raise \$5000. Charlie & Stephanie Haberkorn, Kate Mac Lennan and Connie Dilks are working to organize 40 to 50 youth for this event. Stephanie Haberkorn will also serve on the ACS's Relay Planning Committee. Council members are urged to sponsor one of our youth during this event. We are also invited to sign the Luminaria Form on the back of Dan's report where we can honor or memorialize someone's life through our gift of a luminaria on someone's behalf.

The Youth Mission Trip this year will be to Washington, D. C. July 14 to 21.

Dan asked for final reservations for the Barbecue Chicken Fundraiser Dinner tomorrow evening.

Barbara Smyth, Director of Lay Ministries thanked those who helped deliver plants after the Easter service. There are three times during the year that lay people of the church go into homes of people unable to attend our services. This service is very much appreciated by these people.

Barbara announced that she is pleased that Betty Ann Berry and Peter Jamieson have completed the course work to become Certified Lay Speakers. They will receive their Certificate of Appreciation at Annual Conference in June.

Courtney Flegley is leading the pilate exercise group.

The Spiritual Gifts Class will be starting this Wednesday, continuing for a total of three weeks.

Twenty-eight weddings are scheduled for 2003 and fourteen are scheduled for 2004. She thanked the three people who work with the brides and grooms on their wedding day. The

cost for church members to have a wedding at HUMC is \$425 and the cost for non-members is \$975.

Video costs for church members are \$200 and \$400 for non-church members.

Karen Becker and Mary Hillel will be administering blood pressure and skin cancer screenings on Sunday, May 25.

Leslie Robinson, Coordinator of Children's Ministries urged all those who are not attending the National Cathedral Service to attend the May 18 Celebration Sunday on the North Yard where games, prizes, food, coffee and juice and a wonderful time of fellowship will be available from 9:00 A.M.—10:30 A.M.

Committee to Minister to Families with Children with Aids Chairperson, Norma Whitcraft, reported on having a committee of 12 members who meet monthly and communicate more often by phone when a need arises. Three families have been assigned to us by Cooper Hospital Pediatric Infectious Disease Unit. In addition to ways we have helped these families the past few months, a volunteer prepared Easter baskets for all family members with help from the Chancel Choir. Money to enable this committee to continue its work comes from the mission committee budget, private donations, fund raisers, a Communion offering, interest earned on a bequest and grants.

Cemetery Committee Chairperson, Dave Potts, submitted the Minutes of their last meeting on April 24 to be distributed to Administrative Council Members. Volunteers are needed to better maintain the cemetery. Tasks to be done include: securing a water supply for watering the front grass area of the hill, recovering grave sites which were purchased many years ago and not used, grounds maintenance, clean bench and put on new finish, add stone to the circular driveway, control weeds in the driveway, do concrete repair to the entrance pillars and trim the trees.

Sound and Light Committee Chairpersons, John and Eloise Douglas, submitted a report for distribution at this meeting. For use at the 9:30 service, Chancel lights have been rewired so that we can turn off the 4 nearest the altar but leave on the 2 that are just ahead of the steps. A conduit and snake (multiple wire device) has been installed under the steps so wires will no longer be running across the center aisle. The committee is looking for a way to install a video screen and projector so that there is less work involved in having them ready for the 9:30 service but out of the way for the 11:00 service. A new sound system designed for ease of operation has been installed in the chapel.

Alternative Service Task Force Chairperson, Peter Jamieson, submitted a report to the Administrative Council and indicated the following items that need decisions:

1. Decision regarding location of the 9:30 Service once the new building is in place.
2. Adding more "Special" Music and Drama
3. Adding witnessing to the Service
4. Increasing attendance by increasing press coverage.

Bulletin/Newsletter: There was some discussion about our present bulletin format not being "user friendly." Karen Becker and Ed Spragg are designing a more readable bulletin that will be presented this Fall.

Intentional Prayer Group: A volunteer is needed to chair a prayer group to address needs of the congregation. Please see Rev. Hutchinson or Dorothy Wilson.

175th Anniversary of H.U.M.C., 2004: Several Council Members volunteered to be on a committee to explore ways to celebrate our 175th anniversary. Some ideas mentioned were a church-wide dinner celebration, inviting former pastors to speak at various times during the year, and a visit by the bishop. Rev. Morris suggested the Lay Ministry Task Force could recruit additional people for this committee.

Stewardship Committee: Frank Cahill, reported that after looking at several programs available for our use in the Fall, their committee, along with Rev. Morris, have chosen one called, "The Beautiful Journey." The materials needed for this plan will cost \$2500. Rev. Morris recommended that we use money from the Unanticipated Reserves to pay for this material. A motion was made that we order the material for \$2500 and that it be paid from the Unanticipated Reserve Fund. Motion was seconded and carried.

Neighborhood Center: Norma Whitcraft announced the annual meeting will be held at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church in Cherry Hill on May 21. This will be their 90th anniversary and Judge Lynn Caterson will be the speaker.

Finance Committee Chairperson, Jeff Puff, announced a special meeting of his committee next week. He is hoping we can now stay pretty much on target, stating that we have already gone over budget for heating this year He discussed the apportionment situation, stating that he sent a packet to the Conference with a letter showing that "while our income is going down, apportionments are going up." This makes it more difficult for our local church to conduct the "business" of the church. They put the conference on notice that we are struggling to make ends meet.

United Methodist Women President, Norma Whitcraft, submitted a written report to Administrative Council. The only additional item was the announcement of the Strawberry Festival which will be held June 3 in our church basement.

Ed Bohn thanked the staff for the wonderful Easter service.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 9:00 P.M. The meeting closed with a prayer circle and singing of "Sanctuary."

Janet Neiswender, Secretary