

# Administrative Council Meeting October 2, 2000 Minutes

**Next Administrative Council Meeting:  
Monday, November 6, 2000, 7:30 PM**

**Opening Hymn:** "Jesus Is All the World to Me"

**Devotions:** Led by Ellen Purnell. Ellen stated that we are all living in a vacuum, with an emptiness that can only be filled by God. She spoke of the first Lay Witness Mission at HUMC. She had attended the church for 10 years, but was not a member. Her mother was a Christian Scientist; her father was a Quaker. She attended Lutheran Sunday School, and Methodist MYF. Ellen's mother was the family's strong link to God. Ellen felt a void after her death.

On the Friday evening of the Lay Witness Mission, the question was asked, "What do you hope to get out of this weekend?" Ellen's response was "a personal relationship with Jesus Christ." Ellen took a leap of faith on Sunday, and began three Bible studies each week. She took time for frequent, spontaneous prayer. That Lay Witness Mission Weekend was the beginning.

This upcoming Lay Witness Mission Weekend is an opportunity for a renewal, revival, a jump-start for each of us. We are each handcrafted treasures of God. Ellen read from Psalm 139, v. 13-16 and Matthew 7, v. 7. Each of us is a unique work of the master artist. As his children, we are to serve Him. Ellen ended her devotions with prayer.

**Lay Witness Mission:** Jim Hetherington and Gail Childers provided an update of the Lay Witness Mission. Jim stated that he wished each one could experience what the planning team has experienced in recent months. He didn't know Gail, but now feels like his brother. Jim reminded everyone that they just need to be there, and that they should bring a friend, neighbor, relative.

There is just one 15-minute time slot remaining for the 24-hour prayer vigil.

- Planning team will meet at 7:30 PM on Wednesday evening for prayer.
- Thursday prayer vigil will begin with Communion at 5:00 PM.
- Reminder to sign up for dinners; there are currently 100 people signed up; reservations are needed.
- Still need 2 hosts.
- Schedules for the weekend and additional buttons are available.
- Developing a pastoral visitation list (AKA shut-ins) for Saturday (2:00 PM)
- There have been 60 "Come and See It" small groups

People are needed to handle the sound system on Sunday (and ongoing)  
Prayers were requested for Carol Slimm's mother. She is in the hospital in very critical condition.

**Minutes:** were approved as mailed.

## Senior Minister's Report

**Rev. Reasner:** The Lay Witness Mission is the major item underway. Rev. Reasner expressed thanks for all who have been making preparations for it. Early on, some people did not think the 24-hour prayer vigil would work, but every time slot except one has been filled. It has been a great thing to watch this group come together.

"Thank you" notes have been received from:

- Board of Global Ministries (for the wind up radio project plus several missionaries we support)
- Heifer Project
- Church in Budapest (they are using the gift we approved in June for their organ). They are the second Methodist church in the city.
- Ken Enright (for the \$500 gift that was added to the Cherry Hill donation); this enabled them to purchase a building that will be used as a new church).

Rev. Reasner shared the following story from Ken Enright: women from the village were hired for three days to clean a building. When they were finished, they were given clothing that had been shipped to Ken. They were thrilled. They also dug 300 holes and planted 300 banana trees, which will provide both food and income. A pastor in another village asked Ken if he would come and hire his women. The Methodist church in Zambia is exploding, as a result of pastors' school.

Rev. Reasner raised the question of whether the upcoming Charge Conference (at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church on November 19th) should be a Church Conference. As a Church Conference, anyone from the congregation can attend and vote. A motion was made and approved to make it a Church Conference. It was felt that this should be a year-to-year decision rather than making it permanent.

Rev. Reasner received a letter from Sylvia Smyth. She wrote to tell him that Richard Smyth's home community is honoring him by inducting him into their Hall of Fame. Rev. Reasner sent a letter, on behalf of himself personally and HUMC, which will be included in the memory book.

There is an article in the Relay about the African Children's Choir. The choir is being sponsored by the Camden churches, and will present a concert in our sanctuary on November 24th. The children are 5 to 12 years of age. The choir has been touring for 15 years. Each year, a new group of children are selected to bring to the forefront the atrocities suffered by African children. There will be a bulletin cover in November highlighting this event.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** none

### **Staff Reports**

**Rev. Champ Goldy:** Summer has been busier than ever. Rev. Goldy shared that many individuals with whom he comes in contact have had very difficult situations/operations. He stated that a couple of weeks ago, 7 of 20 prayer cards requested prayers for individuals with cancer. He reminded us of the power of prayer.

He will be preaching at Old St. George's Church in Philadelphia this Sunday; this is the oldest continuing Methodist church in the world. He will also be visiting his sister in a couple of weeks.

He noted that membership in the Methodist Church has fallen by 55,000. He encouraged us to talk with people, sharing our faith. He expressed a hope that the Lay Witness Mission will allow us to get filled with the Spirit, and share faith.

**Wayne Richmond, Director of Music:** Membership in the Children's Choirs is up 10-15%. He feels good about the beginning of New Sound; they have approximately 15 new members. MasterChorale is up 20%. There is a need for younger basses. The youngest bass in Chancel Choir is 62 years of age.

Wayne reminded us of the upcoming concert (two weeks from Sunday).

**Alice Caldwell** reported for Rev. Joan Hutchinson on the following:

- Disciple II will be meeting on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM
- Disciple I will be meeting on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

If you have been thinking about it, don't put it off. It's an exciting time of learning and fellowship. Sign-up sheets are in Checkerboard Square, or call the Church office.

She also reported on the TV Ministry (Multi-Media Ministry) for Jack Shaw. Volunteers are still needed. If interested in learning to videotape the church services, contact Jack, and he will be delighted to talk with you.

We have a new address for our HUMC web page: [www.haddonfieldumc.com](http://www.haddonfieldumc.com), and we are looking for people to give some time to keeping the web site up to date with the latest information. A couple of people have volunteered to help with the web design.

We appreciate all the work John Hill and Frieda Hamer have put into this to get it started. A meeting will be scheduled in the near future to discuss this further. If interested, contact Joan Hutchinson or Frieda Hamer. - -

Another interview shoot for On The King's Highway is scheduled for Tuesday, October 17th.

**Christian Education:** Alice reported that the children, teachers and parents are enthusiastic and excited about our new program. She has heard many positive comments. Some of the things being done to publicize it include: a page on the web site, information in the pews and at the library, and word of mouth. There is also a segment taped for On The King's Highway.

**Finance Committee:** Tom Mervine reported that there was no Finance Committee meeting since the last Administrative Council session. A approval of the 1999 audit was deferred to this meeting, so that members would have a chance to review the report. HUMC's total budget across all accounts reflected a surplus of \$870,000 in 1999 v. \$175,000 in 1998.

A motion was made and accepted to approve the auditor's report.

Tom stated that month-end financial statements for September are not yet available. However, he did report that we did not have to borrow any money during September.

**Stewardship Committee:** Frank Cahill reported on our Stewardship Program for this year, which is called In The Light of Grace. It is a difference program from the one we have used the past several years. This program includes a series of letters, sermons, speakers and Bible studies.

The first mailer introduces the campaign and involves the congregation by focusing on the program theme. This mailer will be sent for delivery on or about October 16th.

A week later, a second mailer will be received. This second mailer involves the congregation through interactive graphics. This will be before Sunday, October 29th, or what we call our first Public Sunday. During this Sunday, there will be display posters around the church, Bible study lessons for the Church School, testimonials, and sermons all on the theme.

The third mailer will be received one week later. This will involve the congregation in an interactive interpretation of the theme, plus distribute the Commitment card. The third mailer will arrive the week before Commitment Sunday, which is November 5th. During this Sunday, a second week of Bible study lessons will be available to the Church School as well as testimonials and a stewardship sermon.

The Commitment Card this year is also different than in previous years. It not only provides a place to make your financial commitment for next year, but will also provide the opportunity to pledge your support to the ministries of the Church, to support the Church in prayer, and to attend worship service, all part of our stewardship.

A fourth mailer will be sent the week following Commitment Sunday, to those who did not respond by mail or by attending Commitment Sunday service. This mailer includes a letter and a second Commitment Card. During this week, our volunteers will telephone those households receiving this mailer, encouraging them to bring or mail the Commitment Card to the Church by the following Sunday.

On November 19th, we will announce the results of this year's campaign during the Church services. This will be Celebration Sunday. It does not include a lunch.

We hope you have responded to the call to make follow up telephone calls. This is very important. In the past, the follow up effort has taken up to three months. We would like to complete this effort in two weeks this year.

**Dan Stephens, Youth Director:** Dan distributed a Youth Ministry Administrative Report, and reported on just two items: Flamingos – both donors and recipients have been receptive; See You at the Pole – last year, just one student participated – this year, we had 29 youth at 11 Middle, Junior and Senior high schools.

**Staff Parish:** Frank Wisniewski reported that Staff Parish is quite busy, but he did not have a formal report this evening.

**Wednesdays:** Frank Wisniewski reported that Wednesday night dinners would start on October 4th. At the last Committee meeting, 17 people showed up. Each week of the month will have a theme: week #1 is a music program; week #2 is a children's program, week #3 will be stories/witnessing, and week #4 will be a mission speaker (will be coordinated with the Sunday Communion offering).

Frank reported that Pam and Sam Driver have purchased books for the children. Each week, a Sunday School lesson will be presented.

We are trying to arrange transportation; people needing a ride will be asked to call the office, and we will try to coordinate it.

Frank stated that he was glad to hear of the increase in Children's Choir membership. The concept of Wednesdays was to attract parents and children who were already at the Church for practice. We are trying to get the youth more involved. During the year, we will have two dinners involving them; one will be totally done by the youth; the other will be a regular dinner, with the youth helping out.

Although she was unable to attend tonight's meeting, Rev. Hutchinson asked that we recognize all the time and effort Frank Wisniewski, Judy Clayton and Linda Waite have given to making the Wednesday night dinners a successful program for our church.

**United Methodist Women:** Norma Whitcraft reported that UMW has begun its fall schedule. Some circles met in September; all will meet in October. They are starting their Bible Program – "Conflict and Community in the Corinthian Church".

UMW's fall banquet will take place on October 15th at Degenhardt's Restaurant. Tickets (\$16 for adults; \$10 for children) are available from Carol Cahill or any circle leader. A singing group called Collage will provide entertainment.

The Craft Sale is October 21st. Marti Rainey is coordinating it. All spaces have been sold. However, if you are a crafter, donations (or baked goods) are welcome. The show will run from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Norma mentioned that some of the older women no longer have access to a kitchen, so they cannot provide baked goods. The youth will be selling hoagies and other goodies. This craft show will truly be intergenerational.

Norma had nothing new to report on the Children with AIDS Committee, but asked that they be kept in prayer.

Rev. Goldy mentioned that he had seen Rev. Elwood Perkins, who previously was HUMC's Minister of Visitation. Rev. Perkins is nearly 96 years old, but is doing pretty well.

The meeting ended with personal silent and personal oral prayer, followed by a pastoral benediction by Dan Stephens.