

**Administrative Council Meeting
November 6, 2000
Minutes**

Next Meetings: Church Conference, Sunday, November 19, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Andrews United Methodist Church, Cherry Hill, NJ

Administrative Council meeting, Monday, December 11, 2000 at 7:30 p.m. Note: This is the second Monday.

Opening Hymn: Wayne led us in "If My People's Hearts are Humbled" from Chronicles.

Devotions: Barbara Smyth led us in devotions, expanding on the meaning of the word, "Grace." Some of the meanings are elegance and beauty, favor, goodwill, influence, a short prayer before a meal, a formal title when addressing royalty, and a musical "grace" note. The most important meaning for Christians is the free unmerited favor and love of God, which causes us to want to return and give thanks to God. Barbara related that she had a good friend named Grace who was a good mother, teacher, and friend. The following passages of scripture concerning grace were read by several members of Council: John 1:17, Acts 20:24, II Corinthians 12:9, Ephesians 2:8, II Timothy 2:1, Hebrews 4:16, Hebrews 13:9, II Peter 3:18, and Revelations 22:21. Barbara closed with prayer, after which we all sang the first verse of "Amazing Grace."

Minutes from the October meeting were approved as mailed.

Senior Minister's Report

Rev. William Reasner reported on receiving several thank yous, among them, the Fresh Air Home, Habitat for Humanity and the Haddonfield Library.

Rev. Reasner reported that Eloise Douglas is now in charge of the Sound and Light operation. She, along with her husband, has improved the sound in the hearing devices used by some of our members. They have been reading Jon Sank's files, with the hope of making more improvements.

Church Conference is Sunday evening, November 19, at St. Andrews Church in Cherry Hill. The next Nominating Committee meeting will be next Thursday evening. The positions of delegate and alternate delegate need to be filled.

Staff Parish Committee: Frank Wisniewski encouraged everyone to attend the Wednesday night dinners. A committee consisting of Mark Whitehead, Sheldon Williams and Frank Wisniewski have revised and distributed the Staff Personnel Handbook, a copy of which is in the office. All the paid staff will be evaluated in 2001. Dan Stephens will go through the process in 2000. He will do a self-evaluation and Rev. Reasner and Chuck Finnie will evaluate him.

One of the issues that have come up is the need for secretarial assistance for Dan Stephens. It was recommended to the Finance Committee that we engage a part-time secretary for four hours a day at \$7.00 an hour. Leslie Robinson's sister, Laura Smith, who is living in the Robinson home temporarily, would be able to help in this capacity until the end of this calendar year. Our office staff, headed by Linda Ingram, will continue to help in the New Year. A motion was made to secure the funds (up to \$1,500) from the Free Reserve Fund for Laura Smith to give two hundred hours to helping Dan organize his files. Motion was passed and seconded.

A question was raised to see if the Finance Committee approved this expenditure. It was noted that Tom Mervine, Chairman of the Finance Committee, approves it personally, expecting to pass it at the next meeting. Since Laura is available immediately, it was important to approve it without the approval of the Finance Committee.

The meeting was turned over to Sheldon Williams who spoke on a mandated program to protect our children. He emphasized we have not had any problems, but society has changed so steps need to be taken to prevent any problems in the future. Some background checks need to be made on all paid employees, as well as volunteer staff. A twelve-minute video was shown depicting problems of inappropriate behavior in some churches around the country. State police will fingerprint the paid staff initially at a cost of \$75 a person. Volunteer staff will be fingerprinted later. The staff of our music school has been approached and they will be discussing this program with their staff. Frieda Hamer will check on the existing insurance policy to see what coverage is obtainable.

New Business: Pat Del Camp related a conversation from a single parent who is not able to attend all

activities in our church because of the lack of baby-sitting. After some discussion, it was decided a cooperative committee of parents might be implemented where everyone takes a turn in childcare.

Rev. Larry Dunn thanked everyone for their prayers and support when his group was in Russia. Since his return he has heard there is increased attendance and Bible study in the churches.

The next New Member class will be received into membership on November 19.

Larry Lawton will be taking care of decorating the church with poinsettias this year. Christmas Sunday will be December 24 this year.

Rev. Joan Hutchinson reported on a new web site for our church: <http://www.haddonfieldumc.com>. A communications committee consisting of Susan Childers, Frieda Hamer, Mike Riddle, Dan Santora, Jack Shaw, Mark Whitehead and Billy Whitehead is meeting to work on a web page. All TV shoots have been completed for this year. Joan asked for suggestions for interesting people to be interviewed.

Rev. Champion Goldy reported that many single women in our parish are concerned about where they will be living for the next few years. He recently took a woman to Wiley to show her the facilities there. Cadbury now has a program of continuing care at home. Another possibility is Long Term Care insurance. He left some information on the costs and the pros and cons of Long Term Care insurance at the front desk for interested persons to pick up.

Education Committee: Chairperson, Alice Caldwell, reported that children are waking parents before their alarm goes off Sunday mornings to take them to Sunday School. Our program has made children excited about coming to Sunday School. There is a need to help parents find a group during the Sunday School hour. She reported that Channel 10 interviewed Nancy Anderson who is painting a Bible mural on the walls of the Education Building stairwell. Channel 6 will interview and air the segment on a Sunday morning show. On November 13 our workshop coordinators and teachers will meet to discuss ideas for an Open House. The date will be announced shortly. Individual tours after church will be announced also.

Finance Committee: Tom Mervine presented the Preliminary Operating Account, showing we are \$20,000 under budgeted expenses and have a \$109,000 shortfall, which is less than 1% difference than when we started. There is a \$400,000 surplus across all accounts.

Stewardship Committee: Frank Cahill reported that three hundred and thirty-six pledge cards came in yesterday. The Committee will determine who gets the follow-up letter. Volunteers are meeting Wednesday evening. Six hundred and twenty-two calls need to be made by these volunteers. November 19 will be a Celebration Sunday where all the results of this year's campaign will be announced during the church services.

Lay Witness Weekend Follow Up: Jim Hetherington distributed a Lay Witness Mission Committee report with a summary statement as follows: The success of our Lay Witness Mission will depend directly on the number of people who volunteer to assume leadership roles. We need people who will take responsibility to see that the suggestions are put into action. The effectiveness of HUMC as a witness to the saving and loving grace of Jesus Christ depends on the laity, not the clergy.

Trustees: Bill Lavery spoke on the property maintenance items that were mentioned eight or nine months ago. There is a need to provide a covered area at the back of the church. There will only be a need for one elevator to be installed. Walt Earley expanded on the architect's drawing that was distributed to Council members. Twenty-eight feet will be added into the parking lot beyond Corson Hall. It is thought the Capital Campaign Funding Proposal will be presented to the congregation sometime in January. Approximately \$2,000,000 will be needed for this campaign.

United Methodist Women: Carol Cahill thanked all who supported the fall craft show. She announced the Christmas program would be on December 7. Helen Carrell will be presenting Christmas carols on her harp. All will sit in a circle around the harpist. The women will be singing along with Helen for a few numbers. She emphasized that gentlemen are invited as well as all the women of the church.

Cornell Dowlin thanked everyone for the good attendance at tonight's meeting.

The meeting closed with personal silent and personal oral prayer, followed by a pastoral benediction by Joan Hutchinson.