

## Administrative Council Meeting December 11, 2000 Minutes

**Next Administrative Council Meeting: January 8, 2001, 7:30 p.m.**

**Opening Hymn:** Wayne Richmond led us in two Christmas Carols: "Angels We Have Heard On High" and "Silent Night."

**Devotions:** Cornell Dowlin gave us devotions on his last night as Administrative Council Chairperson as he did two years ago on his first night as Administrative Council Chairperson. He chose as his scripture reading the 9th Chapter of Isaiah. He read an article about Mary Edgarton, a Quaker who started keeping a journal when she turned seventy. She felt that God is a source of constant guidance.

Minutes were approved as mailed and corrected by Frank Wisniewski as follows: In the Staff Parish Committee report the first paragraph should read "A committee consisting of Sheldon Williams, Gene LeBlanc, Bud Del Camp and Frieda Hamer have revised and distributed the Staff Personnel Handbook, a copy of which is in the office. All the supervisors and ministerial staff will be evaluated in 2001." Starting with the second sentence of the second paragraph, it should read, "It was recommended to Administrative Council that we engage a part-time secretary at \$7.00 an hour for the completion of one project. Leslie Robinson's sister, Laura Smith, who is living in the Robinson home temporarily, would be able to help in this capacity for about three months. 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 help Dan organize his files. Motion was seconded and passed." In the third paragraph, the second sentence should read "It was noted that Tom Mervine, Chairman of the Finance Committee, approves it, personally, and there was not time to present the issue to the Finance Committee." In the fourth paragraph, the fifth sentence should read "Haddonfield police will fingerprint the paid staff initially at a cost of \$25 a person and the state police will perform the background investigations."

**Communications Committee:** Jack Shaw reported on the newly formed committee who have met to develop a new Internet website for our church. They came up with three or four major thrusts such as Public Relations, a Newsletter and a Website. One of the committee members, Mike Riddle, has enhanced the website and will be the Webmaster.

Jack distributed sample permission forms to be used before publishing people's written, musical composition or artwork and parental permission forms to be used when the work is that of a minor. Permission forms need to be signed before pictures are used also, and no names will be placed under the pictures. No names of minors will be used in the publications. These forms are necessary because of people who will abuse the web. Portions of these forms were adapted from the Haddonfield Public School's consent form. A motion was made, seconded and passed that we adopt the usage of these forms. Web team leaders of various organizations of the church will be in contact with Walt Earley who will coordinate installation of equipment. Frieda Hamer mentioned that all permission forms would be kept in the church safe.

**TV Subcommittee:** Jack Shaw reported that the largest broadcast outlet informed us their rates would increase \$75 a week. Comcast has taken over individual productions and will not be doing any more editing. Equipment needs to be updated. A digital format is needed. Administrative Council will have to look at the total expected budget to determine if we need to eliminate an outlet. There will be a saving on the editing in the next year or two when we get our editing equipment working. We will merge this with our computer technology so we can put "On The King's Highway" on the Internet. Christ the King Church is already putting one of their masses on the Internet.

**Director of Music, Wayne Richmond,** thanked all who attended the "Joy of Christmas." He was pleased with the response, which set new records of plate offerings. Wayne reported that Skip Thomas has built a stage for use during the New Sound Choir concert on Sunday evening. Drama will be used along with choral music during Sunday's concert. It will be entitled, "A Christmas to Remember," which is a contemporary view of Christmas. Our youth are very excited and all are invited to attend.

**Senior Minister Bill Reasner** reported receiving thank you notes from Disciple Makers for gifts, the Heifer Project, from a man who runs a hot dog cart around Camden, from the Board of Global Ministries and the Blood Bank.

Some questions were raised about having regular services the morning of December 24. Regular services will be held the morning of December 24.

Bill Reasner reported that he has decided not to go to Africa in January as formerly planned.

Since Bill Reasner announced his retirement at the end of this conference year at a recent Charge Conference, he reported that decision to Administrative Council. He feels there is a growing crisis in this church because of the declining attendance. He reports he has records to show it has been happening for the last seventeen years. He will report his announcement to the congregation at the end of the year and he will describe the process in the replacement of the Senior Minister. The District Superintendent will come to meet with the Staff Parish Committee. The Superintendent will take copious notes about the consultation and the future of Haddonfield. The replacement will probably not go out of the New Jersey Conference but may come from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. The Superintendent and Committee will spend a lot of time in prayer before a candidate will be brought in for an interview. If that candidate does not meet our expectations a second candidate will be brought in for an interview. He advised our church members to contact the Staff Parish Committee about any concerns and suggestions they may have and to not go directly to the District Superintendent or Bishop. Bill Reasner praised the present Staff Parish Committee, saying it is a good committee that is representative of our church. He appreciates the confidentiality shown by this committee. He strongly suggested a mobilization of prayer on a deeper level, possibly after the Wednesday night dinners or after the Sunday morning service.

**Rev. Joan Hutchinson** thanked all those who came out for the Sunday School Christmas program. She was amazed at the increase in attendance since she first came to this church five years ago. Attendance has nearly tripled in five years.

Joan asked the Council to welcome the opportunity to be involved with the electronic media. It is the way of the future.

Brenda Jorett will be doing a reading during the Wednesday night dinner program. The Haddonfield High School jazz band will also be coming this Wednesday.

**Rev. Champion Goldy** reported that he deals with long-term care insurance and living wills and feels he is preparing people to die. He reported on a woman who has eleven tumors on her brain. He also visits a man who has throat cancer who is not a church member. When Champ visited him he told him God loves him. The man squeezed Champ's hands as tears ran down his cheeks.

Champ is exploring alternative medications such as magnets and hopes to have a demonstration in our church in the future.

**Youth Ministry:** Dan Stephens passed out samples of the Christmas cards that were used for a December fundraiser. This proved to be a profitable event for the youth.

The Goodgames have everything they need following the fire in their home Thanksgiving Eve. Forty Winks Mattress Company donated brand new beds for their use. They are living in a home on Hopkins Avenue. Financial donations have totaled over \$6,000 from HUMC and nearly \$20,000 community-wide. Dan said he has never seen a community respond like Haddonfield, which has been an incredible thing to witness. Dan went to the Haddonfield Ministerium in hopes of initiating a community-wide gathering of Haddonfield church youth. It is hoped that in January the youth of the community will get together.

Beginning December 12, Mike D'Italia will be starting a "Shadowing" program in coordination with HUMC Youth Ministry and the Gloucester County Alternative School. He will graduate early in January. He took his SAT's and Asbury College offered him a scholarship. This young man has progressed because of the love from his church family.

### **Old Business**

After some raised questions concerning our insurance coverage after viewing the video on sexual misconduct last month, Frieda reported that the same insurance policy coverage is in effect all over the conference. General liability is \$1,000,000 per occurrence for sexual misconduct.

**Education Committee:** Alice Caldwell announced that three tours of the Sunday School would be provided this Sunday morning, December 17, two tours during the Sunday School time at 9:45 a.m. and one after the 11:00 a.m. service. There will be a second series of tours on Sunday, January 7.

**Finance Committee:** Tom Mervine thanked the Finance Committee and Frieda for providing the statements. He reported that we should end up with a surplus at the end of the year. Frank is completing six years as Finance Committee Chairperson and announced that Charlie Bowen will take over as Chairperson in January.

**Stewardship Committee:** Frank Cahill reported that six weeks since Commitment Sunday, five hundred and thirty pledges have been turned in totaling \$707,414, which is \$14,000 above last year at this time. Twenty-seven more pledges have been received which is \$37,634 more than last year, making a 5.32% increase in pledging. One thousand envelopes are being distributed every two months. Last year five hundred and fifty-seven pledges came in. Some youth did not pledge a year after being confirmed. Forty-two people made no pledge at all. Some people give some money in envelopes but do not pledge.

**Trustees:** Bill Lavery reported that the Planning Board did not want to meet concerning the parking lot schematic until next year. As a result the Trustees will return to Administrative Council in February to present the whole Capital Campaign. Jere Estes consulted with the committee to see if they want to get going on the fundraising. They felt they would not be able to get the campaign going before the summer season. The congregation has to approve the campaign before they can go ahead so, November looks like the time the campaign will begin.

**United Methodist Women:** President, Norma Whitcraft, reported on the December program where Helen Carrell, a harpist, presented the program.

January's Womenspeak Sunday was announced with Judie Reasner as the speaker on "Children of Africa."

### **Other Business**

Pat Del Camp announced a sale on the radios for overseas at Cost Less for \$29.99.

**Moment of Privilege:** Cornell Dowlin thanked the Administrative Council for their support the past two years he has been Chairperson of Administrative Council. He asked for Council members to keep Pat Del Camp in our prayers and to give her the same support given him.

It was announced that both Tom Mervine as Finance Committee Chairman and Sam Zollers as Church Treasurer are retiring the end of the year.

After personal silent and personal oral prayers, Rev. Larry Dunn closed with a benediction.