

## Administrative Council Meeting February 5, 2001 Minutes

**Next Administrative Council Meeting March 5, 2001, 7:30 PM**

**Opening Hymn:** Wayne Richmond led us in "Let There Be Peace On Earth."

**Devotions:** Gail Childers led us in devotions. He began by suggesting that when we hear a good sermon, we should take it to heart. He mentioned that 111 participants have signed up for the Daily Walk. He spoke of how the prayer vigil has evolved, including prayer for the selection of a new pastor at HUMC. Times are changing. Gail used several references from presidents, current and past. George W. Bush, in his inaugural address, spoke of the need for character and compassion, healing and uniting in these changing times. Jimmy Carter, in *Meditation of Scripture*, spoke of the need for truth, compassion, justice, service and love. We should develop a genuine sense of friendship towards neighbors + what would Jesus do (WWJD)?

Gail made reference to a biography of Payne Stewart, written by his wife. When his plane crashed, two Scripture books and a "WWJD" bracelet were found in the ruins.

Gail shared how God spoke in different ways during the 2<sup>nd</sup> hour this past Sunday. In the 5+year olds group, there was a reading of a story of compassion. The craft was a cutout heart. When it was put together, it spelled "Jesus loves me" on the back.

Gail read several verses of scripture, from Matthew and Romans, which focused on healing, compassion, and God's mercy.

Devotions concluded with the singing of "Amazing Grace" and prayer.

**Minutes:** There was one change made under Devotions. We can find ten habits for daily life in the Ten Commandments, and eight habits in the eight Beatitudes. Minutes were approved as amended.

### **Staff Reports**

**Senior Minister:** Rev. William Reasner reported that a thank you note has been received from the Heifer Project. He also announced that John Kishbaugh would be resigning from Administrative Council. He also shared a story from this past Sunday's 11:00 AM service. A couple (they have a relative in the church, but they are not members) sat in front of Judie Reasner. The singing of The Lord's Prayer genuinely moved the gentleman. The couple came to the healing table weeping. Rev. Reasner indicated that something was taking place between them and God; this is what HUMC is all about. Our call is to create an atmosphere in which people can experience God. Once in awhile, as seen this past Sunday, we see evidence that we are doing that.

**Rev. Dunn** reported that there would be a new member class, beginning in early March. There will be some changes to the format; it will last six weeks. He also spoke of the meeting that took place between himself, Frank Wisniewski and Sheldon Williams, as well as his conversation with the District Superintendent. Rev. Dunn announced that he is planning on retiring as of June 30, 2001.

**Rev. Hutchinson:** We continue to fine-tune the new Sunday School program. We will be starting a new Sunday School class (the Choir class); the start and end times will enable participation by choir members. There will be a Sunday School teacher appreciation luncheon during March. We are receiving and reviewing lots of literature regarding Vacation Bible School programs.

Rev. Hutchinson reported for the **Communications Committee**. The committee met last month. They have several volunteers as liaisons. If any group has not yet been contacted, call Joan Hutchinson or Susan Childers. The next meeting is scheduled for February 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM.

This week's **Wednesday Night** program will include Rev. Bill McElwee, as well as representatives from the Haddonfield Police Department.

Rev. Hutchinson also updated Administrative Council on where she stands in the scheme of things. As required by protocol, she has offered to leave her current position at HUMC. The final decision, however, is up to the Bishop. She reminded us that one of the reasons John Wesley moved a pastor was so that neither the pastor nor the congregation became complacent.

**Rev. Champ Goldy:** Rev. Goldy provided some detailed statistics regarding his activities.

We currently have 65 members in retirement facilities; of that number, about two-thirds come to church; the others require more frequent home visits.

- He visits 66 individuals still living in their own homes.
- He receives approximately 12 requests for visits per week.
- He reviews Jeanne Pearce's report to identify people asking for contacts.
- He reviews John Cargill's report regarding people not attending.
- Prayer cards add another one or two visits per week.
- He visits people identified by Jerry Reynolds's group.
- He makes hospital visits one to five times each week.
- He provides weekly reports to the staff to keep them up to date on what is happening with these individuals.
- This week, he will be making his 480<sup>th</sup> report!

**Director of Music:** Wayne Richmond thanked the Education Department for freeing up extra space for the Music Department (Resource Room). Café d'Amour will take place on February 16<sup>th</sup>; it is being hosted by the NJ MasterChorale, and will include music presented by Denise and Kirk Stuart, Becky and Greg Field, John and Christine Nanni, Laura Camp and Dana Wilson. The Pancake Supper will take place on February 27<sup>th</sup>; John and Shirley Landgraf will be taking over for Larry and Barbara Lawton.

Wayne also expressed thanks for the overwhelming response to the bulletin cover requesting support of the March 4<sup>th</sup> concert. It will be a wonderful celebration of music of good news.

**Youth Ministry:** Dan Stephens reported that the Youth Group is trying to bring in more kids. From 5:30 + 7:00 p.m., before Sunday Youth Group, we will have a "Game of the Week", coordinated by Chris Duniak. Plans are underway for the 30-hour famine, which is a fund raiser for the mission trip. We are adding a new twist this year, with an added focus on homelessness.

Dan reported that the period from December 20<sup>th</sup> through today has been the busiest time for youth related activities, including retreats, the Super Bowl bash, confirmation, etc.

Dan talked about the Junior High retreat this past weekend. There was an altar call on Saturday evening. Dan was absorbed in prayer. He expected to see one or two of the youth respond; all twenty-one went up.

Thirty-two Senior High youth attended the winter retreat at Keswick (January 12-14). Many of the youth recommitted their life to Jesus Christ, or asked for help with a personal struggle in their lives.

Dan asked that we keep the confirmands in prayer. Pat DelCamp noted that the 2001 Confirmation class would be a prayer focus.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** Mickey Plumb reported that she is resigning as facilitator for THEOS. This group has met two Tuesdays each month for the past 10 years. Mickey thanked Rev. Dunn for his support during that time.

Joan H. Clymer read a letter to Administrative Council stating that she would be ending her 60-year membership (and support) of HUMC as of June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Pat DelCamp suggested that we form a Child Care Cooperative that would provide one clearing house to coordinate childcare during church activities. A coordinator is needed.

### **Committee Reports**

**Finance Committee:** Charles Bowen, Chair, reported that the first meeting of the year took place on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Operations for the year 2000 reflect a deficit (unaudited) of \$94,000; the audited figure will not be finalized until September.

A motion was made to forgive the deficit of \$94,000; the funds were borrowed from the General Reserves to fund Cash Flow throughout the year. Motion was approved.

Mr. Bowen indicated that he inherited a budget for the year 2001 which included a deficit of \$120,000. He would not bring that budget before Administrative Council. After much discussion by the Finance Committee, salary increases were reduced from 3.5% to 2%, lowering the budget to \$1,248,000

A motion was made to approve the budget for 2001 as presented; it was approved.

Frieda Hamer indicated that there is an error; the budget does not include any money for maintenance on 45 Warwick Road. The budget does include the new Senior Minister's salary as of July 1.

A Capital Fund Drive is planned for either 2001 or 2002. There is nothing in the budget to support the preliminary expenses associated with this. A motion was made to approve expenditures up to \$10,000 from General Reserves to pay preliminary expenses associated with the campaign (e.g., drawings). The consultant's fee is not part of this expense. Motion was approved.

**Staff Parish Relations Committee:** Frank Wisniewski, Chair, reviewed several items regarding the recent staff announcements. He prefaced his remarks by stating that we could consider holding a congregational meeting; this would need to be approved by Administrative Council. If this occurs, the suggestion was made that the District Superintendent moderate this meeting.

Frank stated that Staff Parish Relations Committee intended to meet with Rev. Dunn to inform him of the Bishop and Cabinet's decision, after consultation with Staff Parish Relations Committee, not to reappoint Rev. Dunn, so Rev. Dunn and the Committee could work together in allowing Rev. Dunn to decide how to inform the congregation. Unfortunately, the District Superintendent called Rev. Dunn 36 hours prior to the Committee's scheduled meeting with Rev. Dunn. The District Superintendent's call was not to have been made until the Committee met with Rev. Dunn. Rev. Dunn then told several people what happened, and, by the end of the next day, the decision was general knowledge throughout the church building. Staff Parish Relation Committee's desire to handle the decision with grace, and not hurt Rev. Dunn, could no longer be achieved.

Frank expressed appreciation to Rev. Dunn for all he has done for HUMC. Staff Parish is recommending to the Missions Committee that we continue to maintain support of Rev. Dunn and the Russian Initiative. Rev. Dunn has a five-year commitment to teach Pastor's School in Russia.

Frank also outlined the level of detailed communication shared with Administrative Council by the Staff Parish Relations Committee throughout their reorganization/visioning process at least three different times throughout the past year. Frank stated that no one who was a member of Administrative Council in 2000 should have been unaware.

Staff Parish Relations Committee will continue visioning. In addition to the committee, Jim Hetherington (as a representative of the Lay Witness Mission), Rev. Powell, Rev. Morris and the new Associate Pastor will be included in this process.

The new Senior Minister, in conjunction with the Bishop and the Cabinet, should make the decision regarding the appointment of the Associate Pastor. We would like Rev. Hutchinson to stay, but will abide by the decision. There have been questions regarding the status of Rev. Goldy. We expect he will be back, but his role may be modified.

Several members of Administrative Council expressed their thoughts, concerns and ideas regarding the communication of pending staff changes. The question was raised whether or not these organizational changes needed to go through Administrative Council. According to the Discipline, this is only required if a new position is being created. The suggestion was made that we consider retaining Rev. Dunn as a consultant from July 1<sup>st</sup> until he goes to Russia in October.

**Other Business:** none.

The meeting was adjourned after closing prayers (personal silent, personal oral, and pastoral benediction).

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Maryann Parr