

Administrative Council Meeting May 7, 2001 Minutes

**Next Administrative Council Meeting, Monday, June 4, 2001
Felton Parlor, 7:30 pm**

Opening Hymn: Wayne Richmond led us in the signing of **A**Forward Through the Ages@.

Announcements: Pat DeCamp indicated that we have individuals signed up for devotions through June. She asked for volunteers through year-end. She also requested that members list the church organizations in which they are involved as they sign the attendance sheet.

At last month's Administrative Council meeting, copies of the following were distributed: letter regarding the Boy Scouts, a listing of HUMC staff, and prayer requests for April/May. Additional copies are available this evening for anyone who did not receive them in April.

Devotions : Steve Herbert's devotions began by sharing a story about Daryl Dawkins, a player with the Philadelphia 76ers. Daryl never achieved his goal of winning a team championship. When asked about this, he said: **A**When it's all said and done, there's no more to say@. Steve suggested that as a church, we need to move on, beyond the division, the anger, and lost members.

Steve read from 2 Samuel, beginning with verse 16 (the death of the child), and from 1 Samuel, Chapter 3 (Samuel and Eli). Steve talked of the **A**nuggets@ that are in these verses, and shared how these **A**nuggets@ might apply to HUMC:

- You need to listen (and listen to each other)
- Pick time and place to communicate (more freely and openly)
- Agree to disagree (we need everyone's ideas)
- Rumors (are hurtful)
- Loving **B** open communication requires trust

Treat all ideas with love and respect, and build on those ideas. Improved communication will not happen overnight. Steve ended devotions by reading from 2 John chapter 1, verses 4 **B** 7.

Minutes: under **A**new business@ the last sentence was changed to read: The chair thanked the Childers for their work on this project. Minutes were approved as amended.

Rev. Reasner reported that we have received thank you notes from Friends of Caring Hearts and Young Life. He has received a letter from the District Superintendent regarding the Conference's Capital Funds Drive supporting **Hope for the Children of Africa**. HUMC has been asked to commit \$1,000 per year for 3 years to support the Bishop's initiative for the children of Africa. A motion was made to support this request (taken out of Mission Fund). This motion was approved.

Rev. Reasner advised that one of HUMC's delegates to Annual Conference (Jim Hetherington) have resigned. He also indicated that there have been several changes to this year's Annual Conference: widows of clergy are no longer included, and they are introducing an \$80.00 registration fee for all delegates and ministers in attendance. A special Charge Conference is required to name a replacement delegate.

A motion was made requesting that HUMC pay this \$80.00 fee for our 3 lay delegates and ministers (from unanticipated reserves). Motion was approved.

Rev. Larry Dunn presented several special mission requests. The Mission Committee voted to give \$2,600 to Dr. Fred Veguero. Dr. Veguero is a thoracic surgeon working in the Dominican Republic through the Dominican Evangelical Church. The Men's Sunday School has raised \$400 for this; the balance will come from the Mission Tithe Fund.

\$3,000 is being requested to help the Methodist Church in Jersey City, NJ with their rebuilding project (the church burned down). A motion was made to support the Jersey City church, with the funds coming from the Felten National Mission Account. The motion was approved.

Wayne Richmond announced that New Sound's concert is scheduled for Sunday, May 20, 2001, beginning at 7:30 pm.

Dan Stephens talked about the Youth Group's Bible Bowl B a Bible knowledge competition. Other than their year-end dinner, activities are finished for the summer. Confirmation is scheduled for May 20th. Two of our youth (Mike D'Italia and Brendan Stuart) will be attending Annual Conference.

Dan attended a seminar today. Topics included evaluating ministry and growing disciples (by churching the unchurched and effective lay leadership teams).

Dan distributed and reviewed data showing the enrollment trend within our Youth Group, and discussed how the trend is changing (positively) as the result of some changes that have been made. Dan expressed thanks that he has never wanted for adult leaders/volunteers to support the Youth Group.

Dan also shared statistical information about HUMC's web site. Between January 1 and April 30, 2001, there were 137,483 hits (an average of over 34,000 per month).

Old Business

Child Care Co-Op: we would need a list of people willing to supervise children during church activities; childcare would have to be arranged ahead of time. Some of the issues include: space, people to staff co-op (parents who would use it?), coordinator, insurance, and background checks.

Council members were asked to talk with parents of young children B Vacation Bible School might be a good forum to do so B for input.

Look back/look ahead B as a follow up to our visioning meeting, John Scarborough wrote a letter suggesting the following:

#1) that members of Administrative Council be selected to represent views of all groups (e.g., Sunday school classes) within the church. John suggested that the Nominations=Committee consider this when selecting Council members for the next term.

Rev. Reasner indicated that the Nominations=Committee already does that, to ensure that Administrative Council reflects the diversity of the Church. He indicated that this could be honed in with even greater intentionality. The make up of Council is defined by the Discipline.

#2) that Council members be permitted to hear the issue (especially those requiring \$\$ or property), obtain feedback, and then vote at the next meeting. This would allow members=votes to be more deliberate/meaningful.

Steve Herbert suggested that we consider placing a dollar limit; he also suggested that we consider providing an agenda prior to each Administrative Council meeting (so that members would be aware of issues under consideration)

Rev. Reasner stated that members of the Board of Trustees and Staff Parish are elected representatives who bring issues to Administrative Council, but they have the authority and responsibility to make decisions.

Pat DelCamp indicated that suggestions made to Administrative Council are handled and implemented when possible. She read from a letter that Marilyn Schiffman wrote in September 1999, and indicated that a number of Marilyn's suggestions had been acted upon:

- Updated name/address directory is now available
- A Commissioning ceremony for new Administrative Council members took place in January, 2000
- New Administrative Council members have an orientation
- Minutes of Administrative Council meetings are available to church members

Letter B Methodist Federation for Social Action: MFSA developed a statement concerning the relationship between local congregations and the Boy Scouts of America. In a letter dated February 2001, MFSA requested that this statement be shared with scouting coordinators and church councils.

Walt Baker stated that he has been involved with the Boy Scouts of America for 50 + years. Walt indicated that they have the same policy towards gays/lesbians as the Methodist Church B they are welcome to join, but cannot hold leadership positions.

Material from the Southern New Jersey Council, Inc., Boy Scouts of America was made available for Council members. As part of this handout, their Non-discrimination policy was included. David Perry, Boy Scout Council Executive, is available to answer any questions Administrative Council members may have.

Rev. Reasner stated that the Methodist Church has many outside bodies. MFSA is one of these groups. The General Board of Discipleship, which is the agency of the Church, has supported the Boy Scouts. The General Board of Church/Society disagrees with the General Board of Discipleship. Diversity is one of the church's great strengths and great weaknesses.

General Conference is the only body that speaks for the Methodist Church. Their last vote was to maintain the discipline. We recognize that our church is divided on this issue; another fight can be anticipated at the next General Conference.

Floyd Cranmer made a motion that Administrative Council takes no action on the MFSA's letter (ignore it). Jack Shaw made an alternate motion that we respond to MFSA that the Boy Scout's position is consistent with the Church's position.

Administrative Council was asked to vote on an amendment to the original motion (to do nothing) and send a letter to MFSA that the Boy Scouts' position is consistent with our Church's discipline. Motion was approved as amended.

John Landgraf updated Council on plans to purchase a new van for church use (current van was purchased in 1987). A Project Funding Request Form is being completed. A policy is already in place for use of the van. Recommendation is to keep the old van as a utility van.

New Business

We are looking for A Minute Speakers leading up to the Congregational Meeting on June 3, 2001. Frank Wisniewski is willing to be one.

Finance Committee: Charles Bowen, chairperson, presented the report. As of April 30, 2001, Total Income equals \$399,316; Total Expenses total \$458,605; YTD net loss is \$114,089. Our budget projected a loss of \$59,289 at this point in time. The difference is in income, not expenses.

The amount borrowed from Reserves (\$111,000) is at the highest level over the past ten years (in 1993, we borrowed \$57,000). Between now and year-end, we will probably have to borrow an additional \$100,000.

Staff Parish: Frank Wisniewski, chairperson, reported that the Employee Relations Committee for 2001 includes Jeanne Pearce, Mark Whitehead and Frank Wisniewski. They are currently reviewing health insurance options (due for renewal on 9/1/2001), and exploring available alternatives. An increase is definite.

Frank reminded Council members of 4 important events:

- 1) May 20, 2001 **B** Celebration of Ministry for Carol and Larry Dunn
- 2) June 3, 2001 - Congregational meeting beginning at 4:00 pm. It will include:
 - Hymn sing
 - Report of Trustees/Capital Campaign Committee
 - Report on Carol Scarborough's survey
 - Staff Parish visioning plan

Note: this meeting is an opportunity to ask questions and give input.

- 3) June 10, 2001 **B** Celebration of Ministry for Judie and Bill Reasner
- 4) July 1, 2001 **B** First Sunday with Rev. George Morris and Rev. Joan Hutchinson. A welcoming luncheon to welcome new ministers will be held at no cost to members of the congregation.

Communications Committee: Michael Riddle reported that release forms are available to allow us to use pictures (this is an update **B** the form had previously been approved by Administrative Council).

Mike needs help in getting information on the Web site. It does not have to be computer literate; just write it up, and get it to him. His email address is MHRIDDLE@home.com

Prayer Committee: Nancy Anderson presented report for Carol Schmidt. The Prayer Group has been meeting on a regular basis and will have a reduced schedule during the summer months. The committee has started to make HUMC prayer request sheets available to encourage prayer for church concerns at home as well. The April/May request sheet is now available in Checkerboard Square. Prayer request cards have been developed; the prayer Web page is still under construction. Planning discussions for a prayer partner program are underway. We continue to ask the Holy Spirit what to pray about. You, as leaders of this church, are part of this answer. You know the needs and concerns of the church. We ask you to share them with us as the Spirit leads. All may submit a prayer request by obtaining prayer request cards from the church office and leaving them with the office, in the Homebuilders' box, or emailing them to www.humcprayerrequests@msn.com. Your presence is also requested as the Spirit allows. The importance you place on prayer will be the example the rest of the Body will follow. We challenge you to make prayer a priority in both your corporate and personal lives. Our loving Father longs to hear from you. Please join us in prayer.

Children with AIDS Committee: Norma Whitcraft reported that tickets are available for their fundraiser **B Nonsense A-Men**. The Sketch Club Players will present the program on Sunday, June 3, 2001, at 2:00 pm at the Little Theater in Woodbury, NJ. Flyers are posted throughout the church; tickets are available through the church office.

Norma also stated that the biggest requests received by the Children with AIDS Committee continue to be to pay utility bills.

United Methodist Women Norma reported that the 5 districts that used to be part of the Southern New Jersey Conference held a tea to benefit the Neighborhood Center. The 3 districts that had been part of the Northern New Jersey Conference had been unaware of the work done by the Neighborhood Center. A check in the amount of \$690 was presented to Neighborhood Center by one of the NNJ Board Presidents. The meeting was closed with personal silent prayer, followed by a benediction by Rev. Reasner.