

Minutes Administrative Council Meeting September 10, 2001

Next Administrative Council Meeting, October 1, 2001 at 7:30 p.m.

Ed Bohn, Vice Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. He welcomed Rev. George Morris to his first Administrative Council meeting at HUMC, telling him that he felt excitement and a good spirit among our church members on July 1, which was Rev. Morris' first Sunday at HUMC.

Devotions: Peter Jamieson's devotions centered on the "Wows" of the Bible. He asked how many members had ever been to the Grand Canyon, which is one of the "Wows" in our natural world. There are three creation stories. In John I we are told the Trinity existed before anything else. He closed with prayer, thanking God for all the "Wows" in the Bible.

Minutes: Dan Stephens asked that the minutes include what is to become of the income derived from the use of the new video projectors and screen that was recently purchased for our church. The income is to be used for the Youth Ministry. Minutes were approved after this addition to the June minutes.

Senior Minister's Report: Rev. George Morris reported receiving thank you's, including Dr. Federico of the Dominican Evangelical Church from the Frank Baxter Sunday School Class, for \$3,000 from Young Life Ministry, the Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Fellowship Fund, from Kris Perkins, who works at the Fresh Air Home in North Wildwood where one hundred and sixty children participated in that ministry, and from Dave Bailey's Ranch Hope Ministry in Alloway, New Jersey.

The United Methodist Church has taken away the Nominating Committee and replaced it with a Committee on Lay Leadership. This committee will be working year round rather than only two weeks before Charge Conference. It will monitor spiritual leadership in our congregation. Rev. Morris suggested that the Administrative Council consider for this year that we ask everyone to remain in their office for one more year which will give him time to become better acquainted. The Committee on Lay Leadership will be making some changes due to change of residence and resignations. A motion was made to maintain the current committee memberships for one additional year. Motion was seconded and carried.

Rev. Morris will represent staff on the Trustees Committee, Staff Parish Committee, Finance Committee, Stewardship Committee, Worship Committee, Sanctuary Services Committee, Missions Committee, Committee on Lay Leadership and Communications. Rev. Joan Hutchinson will represent staff on the Christian Education Committee, Evangelism Committee, Nurturing Ministries, Caring Ministries, Staff Parish Committee, Worship Committee, Sanctuary Services Committee and Committee on Lay Leadership and Communications. Dan Stephens will serve as Youth Advisor. Wayne Richmond will serve on the Worship and Music Committees. Leslie Robinson will serve on the Christian Education Committee. Pat Shannon will serve on the Building and Grounds Committee and be present for the Trustees meetings. Frieda, as Business Administrator, will serve on the Finance and Trustees Committees.

There has been much talk about a Contemporary Worship Service before Rev. Morris' arrival here. He suggested that this process be formalized. This committee's responsibility would be to design and implement this service by September 2002. A motion was made to ask the Committee on Lay Leadership to establish a task force for an Alternative Worship Service. Motion was seconded and carried.

There has been a request to establish a Single's Ministry for singles 45 years and older. There will be a meeting on Wednesday, October 3, at 7:30 p.m. to explore the need for such a ministry.

Rev. Morris talked about Four Points of Christian Discipleship with Integrity as follows:

1. Encouraging and inviting everyone who is a member to be a regular attendee at worship services.
2. Encourage small group experiences, which deepen our understanding of faith.
3. Continued emphasis of reminding ourselves of personal spiritual growth through devotions, "Walk Through the Bible," encourage individual journeys, "Tree of Life," and "Walk to Emmaus."
4. A Basic Christian Beliefs class will be offered on an ongoing basis and people will be expected to participate sometime in their spiritual life.

Rev. Morris spoke about the meeting on Wednesday, September 26, which is a follow-up meeting to our Congregational Meeting of June 3 regarding the proposed renovations to our church facility. This will be an opportunity for our church members to raise questions and concerns directed to the architect and Trustees regarding the specifics of the proposed renovations. Written concerns were discussed during a meeting with Floyd Cranmer, a church member who is an architect. A Special Charge Conference will follow up this meeting on Wednesday, October 17, 2001 at 7:00 p.m., which will be chaired by our District Superintendent, Ron Watts.

A proposal will be given by the Trustees to adopt or not to adopt the concept of renovations. Should they adopt the proposal, a Building Committee and Capital Funds Campaign Committee will be nominated. These committees will be coming back to a future Charge Conference for its action. Rev. Morris emphasized that the primary task of this church is to make disciples for Jesus Christ. He reflected on the concept of vision for this congregation. He feels that an attitude of humility as found in II Chronicles 7:14 is vital for us: "If my people will humble themselves and pray, and search for me, and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear them from heaven and forgive their sins and heal their land." He feels it is important for us to study the traditions of HUMC and the Methodist Church because in looking back, we gain a sense of the future. Vision comes to people who are committed to Jesus Christ. We also need to be committed to each other by dreaming together, engaging in conversation with each other and working together. We have to ask difficult and challenging questions such as, "What do we have to do to become effective ambassadors of Jesus Christ?" Rev. Morris suggested our participation in a weekend program entitled "Future Search" led by Dr. Stan Menking to be considered at the October Administrative Council meeting.

Rev. Morris shared the fact that most of his time in the ministry was spent in the Trenton area and that many concerns were going through his mind as he accepted the call to Haddonfield. He and Kathy thank the Staff Parish Committee and everyone who has made them feel at home in this church community. He is looking forward to working together as we address the future needs of this church to further the work of God's Kingdom.

Associate Pastor-Rev. Joan Hutchinson: Rev. Hutchinson reported that the fall Sunday School programs started this past Sunday. There were some visitors from town who were surprised at the number that took part in our new Sunday School program. Noah came to visit in costume. A former member of our church came to visit and is planning to go back to her church to implement the same program.

Joan reported that the last Sunday in September is Christian Education Sunday. There will be teacher dedication and third graders will receive their Bibles.

The mural is finished. Thanks were expressed to Nancy Anderson. It took one year of her time and talent to complete this project.

Judy Clayton is ready to take your name to help with the Wednesday dinners, which start on October 3.

Rev. Hutchinson spoke of the *Stephen Ministry*, which is going to be implemented at Haddonfield United Methodist Church in the near future. Audrey Frank, Joan Hutchinson and George Morris have all been trained in this ministry. This ministry is based on Acts 6:2-5 where Stephen was one of the first people appointed by the apostles to serve the needs of the church. Stephen Ministers are laypersons that Stephen Leaders train to provide effective, distinctively Christian care to others in their congregation and community. Stephen Ministry is caring ministry provided by pastors and lay persons trained to use the Stephen Series Ministry System. This type ministry is especially effective in large churches such as ours where the church members can do some of follow-up care of the pastors. We have all been given gifts, and we all need to use these gifts. It is nice to know the church cares for us when we are hospitalized, grieving, suffering loneliness or discouragement, separated or divorced, unemployed, homebound or institutionalized, suffering loss of family members, or when new parents face frustration over lack of sleep. Some characteristics of a person gifted for Stephen Ministry include: emotional stability, spirituality, a caring attitude and manner, dependability and trustworthiness. Stephen Ministers complete an initial fifty hours of training before being commissioned. Training will start in January. The staff feels a need to prepare the congregation for this new ministry, both as care givers and care receivers. The motto for this ministry is simply: **CHRIST CARING FOR PEOPLE THROUGH PEOPLE.**

Rev. Hutchinson told of a booklet that is being prepared for the New Member Class. There will be a premarital communication class led by Amy and Bill McElwee and we are now having pre-baptism classes led by the pastors.

Joan asked for prayer for the staff as we begin a new year of ministry at HUMC.

Visitation Pastor-Rev. Champ Goldy: Rev. Goldy expanded on Pat Del Camp's statement in her recent letter to Administrative Council members where she said that summer is a perfect time to rest and be rejuvenated and reflect on the wonder of God's world. He said he had faced four CEO's since coming to Haddonfield Methodist.

Rev. Goldy told of an incident of a resident of Cadbury finding joy that Rev. Morris remembered her name after meeting her one time. He told of an eighty-nine year old lady who had to give up her car and stop driving. One of our members is now picking her up and taking her to church. Many of our elderly need transportation. There are fifty-two of our members in retirement or nursing homes. He ministers to one hundred and twelve people, fifteen of whom are not church members. He shared the fact that this is the size of a small church.

Director of Music-Wayne Richmond: Wayne reported that the NJ MasterChorale will join with the Ocean City Pops this Sunday evening and next Tuesday evening in presenting "Showboat" at the Ocean City Music Pier.

All choir rehearsals start this week.

Youth Director-Dan Stephens: Dan shared that it is good to be home after being involved in many out of town activities. He spent four weeks of classes at Rutgers, time with the New Sound Choir in England, the Mission Trip to Montana for eleven days, two weeks of Drama Camp at Mt. Misery, a family vacation and the Youth Retreat in Ocean City this weekend.

Upcoming activities - *Mission Dinner and Montana Team Report* at 6:00 p.m. on September 23 followed by a Mission Team presentation at 7:00 p.m. While in Montana our youth worked on fifty-nine homes fixing roofs, painting, dry walling and building decks and porches. They worked along side youth from across the country (425) and worshipped with them every night.

See You At The Pole on the third Wednesday in September is to pray for individual schools and teachers at the flagpole of their schools.

See You At The Pole Adult Prayer Time is on Wednesday, September 19 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. in the Chapel. Come for a few minutes or the whole hour and pray for our students, teachers and schools. Prayer guide sheets will be available for those who want them.

Fundraiser - Pumpkin Patch: From October 5-31 the youth will have pumpkins for sale in the back playground. Sales hours will be Monday through Friday from 3:00-7:00 p.m. and on Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to dark. There will be longer hours during the days closer to Halloween. No sales will occur on Sundays.

Finance Committee-Charles Bowen: Charles Bowen reported that we are \$100,000 in the red and have borrowed money from our endowment fund. The staff has done a great job of controlling expenses. Loss is on the income side. He said there is always a bright side in the darkest picture because over the last three or four Sundays there has been an increase in income in comparison to the same three or four Sundays in the year 2000.

The Finance Committee will meet tomorrow evening in Room 135. They will review the year-end audit for the year 2000 and will talk about next year's budget. He asked how many people knew what it costs to run this church per year. It costs \$1,247,000 to run this church. He and Rev. Morris have discussed presenting that information to the members of this church.

Staff Parish Committee-Frank Wisniewski: Frank Wisniewski thanked the Childers for their participation in the farewell party for the Dunns. He thanked Barbara Smyth for being in charge of the farewell tea for the Reasners. He thanked the Richmonds for their participation during the July 1 worship service and luncheon, also to Judy Clayton, Alisyn Stoffel and Marti Rainey for their involvement in preparing the luncheon and presenting the program after the luncheon. The secretary of the Administrative Council also thanks Frank Wisniewski for his involvement the first day of Rev. George Morris' ministry here at HUMC. Two hundred and seventy people were served lunch that day.

Frank reported that as of September 1, there has been a 21% increase in the medical coverage for all staff members.

Frank reported a need to create a Committee on Technology. This committee would have to work closely with the Trustees and the Building Committee. Networking will impact the structure of the new building. This has been discussed with Susan Childers, Chairperson of the Communication Committee.

Staff Parish Committee feels there is a need for a Coordinator of Lay Ministries who will be a nurturing influence among all our church members as well as getting new members involved in the ministries of the church. This person would develop a visiting team to visit new people in the congregation. This would be a full time position at a salary of \$24,500 with no benefits. A motion was made to appoint a Coordinator of Lay Ministries. Motion was seconded and passed. Barbara Smyth was then appointed to this position.

An information sheet on the Hinchman Avenue property is available from the Trustees. Bids may be submitted for the purchase of this property.