

**Minutes  
Administrative Council Meeting  
October 1, 2001**

**Next Administrative Council Meeting November 5, 2001 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Note: The corrections for the October minutes are  
contained in the November minutes.**

Pat Del Camp called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. She announced the availability of Church Council booklets, excerpts from the Discipline and the church audit at the front desk.

**Opening Hymn:** Wayne Richmond led members in the Martin Luther hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God."

**Devotions:** Rev. George Morris used a video, "The Rabbi's Gift," as his devotions. In it a rabbi visits five elderly monks in a monastery where he suggests that the Messiah is one of them. This causes every one to have increased respect for one another. The lesson learned is that how we see each other is important for the movement of the Spirit in our midst. Rev. Morris closed with prayer as he asked for healing, renewal and salvation.

**Minutes:** A question was asked about the second paragraph of the Senior Minister's Report which asks everyone to remain in their current offices for an additional year. It should read: "This will make all existing terms four year terms with no new class for January, 2002. Any new class thereafter will be a three year term beginning January 2003."

Frank Wisniewski made the following changes in the Staff Parish Committee Report. The first two sentences of the first paragraph should read as follows: "Frank Wisniewski thanked the Childers and the Hetheringtons for their participation in the farewell party for the Dunns. He thanked Barbara Smyth for being in charge of the farewell Celebration Service for the Reasners." The last few sentences of the fourth paragraph should read: "One of the areas this person would develop is a visiting team to visit new people in the congregation. This would be a full-time position at an annual salary of \$24,500, two weeks vacation and no benefits. A motion was made to create the position of Interim Coordinator of Lay Ministries. The motion was seconded and passed. Frank Wisniewski reported that Rev. Morris and Staff Parish Relations Committee agreed to appoint Barbara Smyth to this position.

The last paragraph of the minutes is a Trustees item, not a Staff Parish item.

**Senior Minister Report:** Rev. Morris reported that a task force has been selected to research the specifics of an alternative worship service. It is expected that the task force will report to the Administrative Council at the November meeting.

Rev. Morris announced the October 17 Charge Conference meeting with Ron Watts, District Superintendent, presiding. The Trustees' proposal for renovations and a new building will be presented and a vote will be taken. If the vote is affirmative, a Building Committee and a Capital Funds Campaign Committee will be chosen. A question was raised whether an absentee vote ballot can be used if someone has to be out of town. Rev. Morris will check with the District Superintendent tomorrow.

Rev. Morris spoke of the Future Search Conference that was mentioned last month. He is proposing the leadership of Dr. Stan Menking because of his previous ties with this church. Sixty to seventy-five people from diversified age groups would be needed for the two day weekend. A firm proposal will be presented at the November meeting as to cost per person. Rev. Morris has been involved in this in his last two churches and he feels it is necessary once every five years. In meetings like these, people acknowledge and understand their differences, and then seek to discover common ground that all can support. The resulting common ground vision can become the basis for both immediate actions and long-term plans that all will support and work to achieve. The suggested weekend for this event is April 19 and 20.

**Rev. John Hutchinson** reported on a great day yesterday celebrating Christian Education Sunday. There was a large attendance at the light luncheon honoring our teachers. She thanked Leslie Robinson and the committee who put everything together.

There is an opening in Disciple I that meets Wednesday evenings. There will be only a week or two of makeup work.

The Wednesday dinners start this Wednesday. All are invited to attend this week and every Wednesday evening.

The Communications group is working on a church newsletter. The next meeting is October 22. Please see Susan Childers if interested in participating.

Joan spoke of the Stephen Ministry which will begin in January with fifty hours of training for committed Christians to

minister to others in a caring manner. These individuals will report to Rev. Hutchinson, Rev. Morris or Audrey Frank. An interesting observation was made when Frieda Hamer received an e-mail calling for trained Stephen Ministers to come to New York to minister to the victims of the terrorist attack.

The New Member Class starts October 14. Lisa McLaughlin, Jennifer Elder, Livia and John Hawkins, and Richard Rotz will provide leadership.

**Rev. Champion Goldy** reported that a chair lift has been donated to the church from a couple who have passed away. It is already being used in a home. When the need arises, it will be taken to another home.

**Wayne Richmond** announced that the Madrigal Dinner tickets will go on sale Saturday, October 13. Those tickets not sold will be available later in Checkerboard Square. Dates for the Madrigal Dinners are November 29, 30 and December 1.

A sound consultant will be engaged to analyze our sound system before the Capital Fund Campaign gets underway so suggestions can be made for improvements to our sound system.

**New Business:** Kirk Peterson announced a meeting of the Human Nations Council on October 14 in the Masonic Temple which will address, "Why do people hate us?" This relates to the terrorist attacks.

Kirk Peterson also asked for a recommendation as to what we are doing about the Cherry Hill parsonage. Pat Del Camp told him that item will be addressed later in the Trustees Report.

**Finance Committee** Chairperson, Charles Bowen, reported that a Finance Committee meeting was held last Tuesday. They reviewed the audit for the year ending December 31, 2000. The committee recommended unanimously that the audit be accepted. A motion was made to accept the audit. The motion was seconded and passed. Copies of the audit are available for the taking. Charles invited anyone interested to come to the Finance Committee meetings the second Tuesday of every month.

There seems to be some concern from the membership that they are not fully acquainted with the church's financial situation so the following action has been taken:

1. A letter will be going out this week explaining the financial situation of the church as of August 31, 2001. There is a greater than \$100,000 shortfall in income compared to budget. An envelope will be enclosed so the congregation can respond to the shortfall.
2. An article will appear in the church newsletter concerning the finances of the church.
3. An item will appear in the bulletin to show the financial situation at the end of every month, starting January 2002.

**Staff Parish Relations Committee:** Frank Wisniewski gave a joint report for the Trustees and Staff Parish Committees. The Staff Parish Relations Committee did not meet in September and does not plan to meet in October because everything is running very smoothly with the new leadership team.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee believes that if a third clergy person is needed for the alternative service, which could result in the need of housing for that clergy, the housing should be addressed at that time and could include renting or a housing allowance or the purchase of a parsonage. Based on the foregoing, Staff Parish and the Board of Trustees recommends putting the Cherry Hill parsonage up for sale through Gary Vermaat. A motion was made to approve the sale of the Cherry Hill parsonage with the net proceeds being placed in the Parsonage Maintenance Fund. A motion was seconded and approved. Gary Vermaat said that he will contribute his portion of any commission to the church.

A half dozen people have come through the Hinchman Avenue property. Bids must be in by October 9. The minimum bid is \$750,000. If bids do not come in, it will be turned over to a realtor for sale.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.