

Administrative Council Meeting January 7, 2002

**Next Administrative Council Meeting February 4, 2002,
Corson Hall, 7:30 p.m.**

Minutes

Pat Del Camp, Chairperson, alerted members to listen to the following radio stations for announcement of a canceled meeting due to inclement weather: 89.5 FM, 106.5 FM, and 1060 AM. The church office will also have this information.

Opening Hymn: Wayne Richmond led us in singing all three verses of "To God Be The Glory."

Devotions: Miriam Lundgren's devotions centered on the different seasons of the church calendar and the interaction of Epiphany and Pentecost. The Feast of Epiphany is older than Christmas. Events of Epiphany make us look very carefully at how we live out our lives. She suggested we reflect on the words of the hymn, "We Would See Jesus" that we sang Sunday morning. Many times we shut Christ out of our lives because we are so busy. Revelations 3:20 tells us to hear as Christ knocks on our heart's door and to open the door to Him. Miriam closed with prayer.

Minutes: A motion was made to accept the minutes as mailed. Motion was seconded and passed.

Staff Reports

Senior Minister: Rev. George Morris - Rev. Morris wished everyone a Happy New Year as he expressed appreciation to everyone who worked so hard during the Christmas season, especially the Music Ministry. He is thankful for the continued leadership of so many during this busy season. He takes great delight and finds inspiration in the time spent on the needs of this church.

Rev. Morris urged all to mark the dates of April 19 and 20 on our calendars for our Future Search Weekend led by Dr. Stan Menking, saying our involvement is critical. He read a quote from a letter from Stan: "I have been using this planning format with congregations for the past seven to eight years, and have always been amazed at the energy and insights that emerge from the process that creates a vision for what the church wants to be 20 years from now and begins to chart the course of how to get there."

Preparation work for the weekend:

1. Pray that we will be open to God and God's leading. Future Search is a corporate search for God's will.

2. Be prepared to contribute and listen as we all participate in the process. Take time to think about your church, what you know of its history and what is happening today.
3. Be open to what will emerge from our working together to gain a vision for our church.
4. Take time to reflect on these five questions:
 - a. What do you believe are the three or four most significant events or experiences that have brought our church to where it is today?
 - b. As you perceive and experience the world, what will be the five most significant trends (they can be local or global) that will shape the world in which we will do ministry in the future?
 - c. What do you see as the most significant internal trends that will or can impact the congregation and its ministry in the future?
 - d. What would you want the five most defining characteristics of HUMC to be by the year 2022?
 - e. Can you think about what would have to be done, how it could be done, when it could be done, and who would have to do these things to realize that vision?
5. Read John Ed Mathison's book, *Tried & True: Eleven Principles of Church Growth*. The book will begin circulation tonight. Try to read it as quickly as possible and then pass it along to another person on the routing list.

Rev. Morris feels this is the most important piece of work that we will engage in during his ministry at HUMC and knows we have the best person in the United States to lead us.

Rev. Morris asked for our cooperation in an upcoming Membership Audit where we will be asked to update our addresses, phone numbers and e-mail and fax addresses. A list of leadership information has been compiled and is available tonight.

Two new studies led by Rev. Morris will be happening in the near future. The first one, "Spirituality and Aging," started this afternoon. The second discussion group, using the resource book, *Reading The Bible Again for the First Time*, will begin on January 13 and will conclude on March 17.

Rev. Morris will be working with the Building Committee chaired by Frank Wisniewski and the Capital Campaign Committee led by Jere Estes.

The Church Leadership will be recognized and dedicated at the 8:30 and 11:00 services on January 20.

Rev. Morris will be participating, as part of his Continuing Education, in the Gallup Summit on Congregational Engagement in Washington, D.C. from February 4-6 under the topic: "Everything they taught you about building a spiritually healthy, vibrant, growing congregation was wrong."

Rev. Joan Hutchinson announced that the Stephen Ministry begins this Wednesday night. Twelve people have signed up. Please pray for this ministry and pray that people desiring care will contact the church.

Disciple Bible Study I is starting with Betty Berry as leader. The new format starts in January, breaks for the summer months, and resumes September through December.

Beginning Sunday, January 13, Barbara Smyth will be leading a three-week class on "Spiritual Gifts."

A Lenten Bible Study will be given during the Sunday School hour.

A New Member Class will be starting February 20.

Joan invited all to the Wednesday night dinners as a warm and friendly place to meet the church family.

A Lenten Workshop will be held February 17 to make things for the Easter season.

Rev. Champ Goldy spoke of how the volunteer work of John Cargill makes a difference as he follows up on people who have not attended church on a regular basis. He recently made 108 telephone calls. Forty-four of them said they would attend Christmas Eve services. Champ thanked him for his wonderful service to his church. Through this service, he learned of Donald Kepner who last attended church in November 1995 and was ill and in hospice care. Champ visited him before his death. His funeral will be this Thursday. He asked if anyone knew Mr. Kepner.

Dan Stephens wheeled out a rack of Haddonfield United Methodist Church logo shirts and hats, encouraging us to purchase them. Funds from the sale of these shirts and hats will go to the Youth Ministry and Television Ministry.

Dan thanked people who participated in the Teddy Bear project. The goal was reached by 3:00 pm Christmas Eve Day. Many more were received on Christmas Eve, so they will be saved for use next year. He read a thank you note from a family who appreciated receiving a bear when an elderly family member was in the hospital Christmas Eve and who is still in the hospital. We were asked to continue to pray for this gentleman.

We have received proofs for the Pictorial Directory. We have now learned the company is going out of business, but they have assured Dan that they are going to finish the booklet for our church.

The annual trip for senior high students will be held this weekend. Our youth are challenged about their spiritual lives during this retreat. Dan urged us to pray for the youth, both individually and collectively this weekend.

The recent budget cuts to the youth ministry have a direct impact on programs. Dan did thank the church for the support of the youth ministry.

Director of Lay Ministries, Barbara Smyth, expressed gratitude for all the Laity of this church for the outpouring of the many, many ways they've helped others have a good Christmas. In addition to the Teddy Bear program, many gifts for Robin's Nest clientele and the Angel Tree program, Respond, State Street UMC, mitten tree, Homeless coupons, Aids children, all of these were so beautifully shared by the members of HUMC.

The Laity of HUMC also volunteered in serving as ushers, acolytes, singing and playing in all our various choirs, teaching Church School, making announcements, helping serve communion, lighting the Advent Wreath, delivering poinsettias to our shut-ins.

Plans are being made for future activities at HUMC:

1. A Lenten Book of Devotions is being prepared at this time. We will have daily opportunity to read about: "Sharing Christ in our Lives," written by the staff and others.
2. A significant amount of time has been given to get Shepherd's Network revised and active. We will be happy to have any other volunteers for some areas for which there is no Captain at this time.
3. We are looking for person or persons to lead physical and spiritual stretches for men and women two days a week.
4. We will have a "Health Check" on a Sunday morning within the next six weeks. We are working with a woman from American Health Association.
5. There was a great prayer group run so effectively by Carol Schmidt. She needs time to rest and so we are in need of a facilitator.
6. In the sanctuary hallway is a bushel basket for us to place our abundance each week. One family who is a member of HUMC has already been helped. When you buy one and get one free, why not place that free one in the basket. We hope to continue filling the basket and sharing it.
7. There is discussion about the possibility of a Women's Retreat off site. Any ideas for leader or site, please let us know.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee Chairperson, Charles Bowen, presented the budget for the coming year. He thanked the Finance Committee for their diligent work. They had two meetings, both of which ended about 11:00 p.m. at night. He thanked chairpersons from committees in the church for their input. He also thanked Rev. Morris for his guidance. Charles Finnie, President Youth Advisory Council, submitted the following motion: "On behalf of the Youth Ministry, I would like to move that the 2002 Budget, as presented by the Finance Committee, be amended. I move that \$3,000 be added to the Youth Ministry expenses, specifically to the Retreat Expenses, in order to provide for chaperone payments. Further, I move that \$3,000 be added to the Youth Ministry income, specifically to the Mission Trip by way of donations received through at least one monthly mission offering being designated to the "Youth Mission Trip." Discussion followed. Steve Herbert made a plea to support the youth more fully next year. A motion was made to accept the budget, as well as the amended motion. Motion was seconded and passed with two negative votes.

Cemetery Committee Chairpersons, Dave Potts and Walt Baker, presented Cemetery Fees from several local cemeteries, including our church cemetery. As of January 1, 2002, they are suggesting we combine the plot cost of \$300 and the interment Cost of \$200 when the plot is purchased. For cremations the combined cost would be \$100 and the internment cost of \$100. A motion was made to that effect, seconded and passed.

Staff Parish Chairperson, Frank Wisniewski, announced his resignation as of next Monday evening since he is now Chairperson of the Building Committee. Frank, as Chairman of the Building Committee, has contacted Barbara Finnie to refrain from booking any weddings in July, August or September 2003, because of intended renovations to the sanctuary during those months. Steve Herbert thanked Frank for leading us through some rough times during the past year.

A motion was made to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. The meeting was closed with a prayer circle.

Janet Neiswender

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