

Minutes

Administrative Council Meeting

May 6, 2002

Next Administrative Council Meeting June 3, 2002, Corson Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Pat Del Camp, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Opening Hymn: Wayne Richmond led us in the opening hymn, "To God Be The Glory."

Devotions: Dan Cheney reflected on the working of the Holy Spirit in this church as he gave thanks for the joy he felt the last few weeks during the Future Search Weekend and the splendid service Sunday where at least 40 or 50 people seemed to be involved.

Dan's devotions centered on being generous with our money. He feels money is hardly ever mentioned to our congregation, giving the impression that all our monetary needs are being met.

He told of giving a eulogy for a very generous friend who established a free medical establishment for those without medical insurance. He cited many scripture references where Jesus tells us to be generous, including Matthew 19, Matthew 25; also Paul's letter to the Romans, Chapter 10. Reciting a creed is not enough. We are to "Talk the talk and walk the walk". Dan closed with prayer as he urged us to make a habit of generosity.

Minutes of March 4 were approved as mailed.

Rev. George Morris, Senior Pastor, shared that he is frequently asked how he feels about things at this church. His answer summed it up in one word—"gratitude." He feels gratitude to have been given the opportunity and privilege to be with this church at this time of its history. He expressed gratitude to Charles Sayre, Bill McElwee, and Bill Reasner for the support they have given him. He is indebted to Jim Marshall and Ralph Barrett. He is indebted to Stan Menking and his involvement during the Future Search Weekend where 90 of our members attended. He is grateful for the Capital Campaign and Building Committees. He feels a high level of commitment from the whole leadership team. He is amazed at people who go to work all day and come to evening meetings. He also feels that we have a lot of mountains to climb concerning issues that every large and small church is facing. We need to meet the needs of people around us in the name of Jesus Christ. We have a calling and God's Holy Spirit will lead us. He mentioned Richard Nixon's book addressing "getting into the arena" and expressed gratitude that many at HUMC are willing to address those same issues in the church. Rev. Morris mentioned a concept he heard 10 years ago when he attended a large church seminar conducted by Brian Bauknight who said that everything you need to do the work that God is calling you to do is present in your congregation. He has built a leadership team out of that church of 6,000 members. Rev. Morris sees an incredible amount of talent and ability here in this church. He expressed liking to come to work every day. He was encouraged as he read over the Future Search Report as handed out to members at this meeting. Now we need the gift of discernment to implement the report as we do right things and not doing things right.

Rev. Morris reported that the response was good to the inquiry about worship services in the summer months. The staff has decided that the Saturday service will be at 6:00 p.m. and the one Sunday morning service will be at 10 a.m. This will be in effect every weekend in July and August and Labor Day Weekend. We will immediately start communicating this every week.

Rev. Morris expanded on Pat Del Camp's letter sent to Council members concerning the possibility of Administrative Council Meetings being held every other month. There will be further discussion at next month's meeting.

Rev. Joan Hutchinson expressed feelings of joy and gratitude Sunday morning as we all looked back at the rich history of this church and as we desire to provide for future generations.

Stephen Ministry meetings started the first Wednesday in January and will be completed the end of this month. Stephen Ministers will be commissioned the second Sunday in June. Joan asked for names of people who could benefit from having a Stephen Minister.

Vacation Bible School dates are June 24-28. The theme this year is "Catch the Buzz.....about God's love." There will be a lot of bugs decorating our halls.

Sunday School will be in session for children through the end of June. In July and August Sunday School will be held during the 10 o'clock church service, right after the children's message.

Alpha Bible Study - Connie Windus has volunteered to lead this new Bible study in the fall.

Joan thanked all who helped with the Wednesday dinners. They will be starting again in October.

Joan reported that the Evangelism Committee headed by Gerald Reynolds has some exciting ideas. She asked for prayer for all the ministries of our church.

Rev. Champ Goldy has information on many senior members of our congregation that would be helpful to Jere Estes and his committee.

Dan Stephens shared a short video of Champ Goldy as he ran in the Eastern Regional Track & Field Championships in Boston in March where he set a new world record for 85 year olds in the 60 meter dash (10.72) to show the new video editing system. The Confirmation Class is winding down. They will have interviews with the pastors.

The response to the upcoming Mission Trip at the World Trade Center site was very good—\$6,000 from this congregation and a total of \$10,000 from all sources. The 11 day trip will be intense. Dan announced the youth's car wash and flea market on June 1. He asked for all to remember our youth in our prayers.

Director of Lay Ministries, Barbara Smyth, told of the new folder, "Caring for People," where many opportunities for service are mentioned. We have 100 people in our congregation who are shut ins and starving for people to come to visit them. There is an urgent need during June, July and August to deliver altar flowers. Please contact Barbara if you are willing to do that.

Appreciation was shown to Barbara and Denise Fantasia for washing and printing on all the stones that were distributed Sunday morning.

Finance Committee Chairperson, Charles Bowen, thanked Tom Mervine for conducting the meeting last Tuesday when Charles was unable to be present. The Finance reports for the first three months of 2002 showed a loss of \$65,000. Charles reported a recommendation for a bus purchase of \$43,500 to come out of funds from unanticipated expense portion of the HUMC General Reserves.

Van Committee Chairperson, John Landgraf, expanded on the Finance Committee report as he told of the many features of the new bus. It has a Ford E450 V-10 gasoline engine. An extra bar will be installed for ease of entry. A question was asked if there was a provision for wheel chairs. There is no such provision at the present time. A motion was made and seconded to purchase the van for approximately \$43,500. Motion was seconded and carried.

There was discussion as to the use of the present van. A recommendation was made that the last three rows of seats be removed so it can be used in a utilitarian manner. It was decided to keep a careful log of all users during the next six months and then reevaluate the disposition of this vehicle.

Alternative Worship Service Chairperson, Peter Jamieson, reported that the committee has been visiting other churches who have alternative worship services. The committee has made a decision to start our service on November 3, 2002 at 9:30 a.m. Wayne has agreed to provide the music for this service. Since one third of the service will be music, the Staff Parish Committee will need to approve this assignment of duties for Wayne. Witnessing will be part of this service and the sermon will be different from the later worship service. The committee welcomes your ideas.

Capital Campaign Committee Chairperson, Jere Estes, expressed thanks to Dan Stephens for the visual presentation Sunday morning, to Frank Wisniewski, Jack Shaw, to Rev. George Morris for his fantastic leadership, Wayne Richmond's music leadership, the Communications Committee, Cornell Dowlin, Craig Myers, Frank Cahill and Walt Earley as they organize the calling program on people. Conservation will be handled by Mark Reifsnnyder. A special thanks was extended to Natalie and Gary Miller who prepared the luncheon and did a fantastic job. Jere gave special thanks to Barbara Smyth for providing the rocks. He also gave special thanks to his wife, Angie, who kept him focused.

Jere reported the amount pledged so far is \$2,074,628. He feels it has been a spiritual journey; people have been extremely generous. He asked for prayer for this effort.

Affinity Program was reported by Frieda Hamer. Commerce Bank has a program where a church can benefit from members who have accounts in their bank. One half of one percent of members' balances will be given to that church. Names and amounts will be confidential. However, this program is only in effect in Pennsylvania, not South Jersey. Frieda will report back to the council if this program is expanded to South Jersey.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35. A prayer circle was formed with Rev. George Morris offering closing prayer.

Janet Neiswender