

**Minutes**  
**Administrative Council Meeting**  
**September 9, 2002**

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

**Announcements:** Pat Del Camp expressed thanks to Carole Mercer for taking the June 6 minutes in the absence of the secretary. Pat also shared her joyful experiences during Ocean City Weekend with our youth. She was impressed with Bishop Johnson's and Ron Watt's commitment to the youth of this conference. Bishop Johnson invited youth to contact him at any time with any concerns. Ron Watts gave the youth his telephone number, inviting the youth to contact him. It was a wonderful time of fellowship for her. She asked for us to keep the youth in our prayers.

**Opening Hymn:** Wayne Richmond led us in the opening hymn, "This is a Day of New Beginnings".

**Devotions:** Cornell Dowlin led us in devotions, concerning the Principles of Peace as outlined for application at Olney Friends School in Ohio. These principles are: Peace is of God, Peace comes through prayer, Naming obstacles to inner peace, Naming seeds of violence, Sharing truth in love, Right means become right ends, Loving others as oneself, Direct, timely address of concerns, Embracing natural and cultural differences, Resolving unjust differences and lifting up the good in others. Cornell closed with prayer.

**Minutes of June 6** were approved as mailed.

**Senior Minister,** Rev. George Morris, prepared a written report (attached) for distribution to Council members. Some of the highlights of his report are as follows:

1. Finance Committee and committee chairpersons will meet on Tuesday, September 24 at 7:30 p.m.
2. Spiritual Renewal Weekend with Dr. Tony Compolo March 7, 8, and 9, 2003.
3. A concern for the mission of the church-to make disciples for Jesus Christ by providing opportunities for worship, spiritual nurture and growth, ministry/mission (service), and fellowship/community.
4. A 4th worship opportunity begins November 3 at 9:00.
5. It is critical that we develop an out reach ministry to the 48% of people in our area who have no church affiliation.
6. A recommendation that a letter of welcome to new residents in the key zip codes we could reasonably expect to draw from. This letter would include an invitation to our church if the family or individual is seeking a spiritual home and a brochure describing what we have to offer. A suggestion was made that we place a brochure in Realtors offices where new residents can learn about our church opportunities. Rev.Morris noted that people will be willing to travel to church as far as they travel to work
7. We presently have 918 households/members receiving offering envelopes. Of this number there are 323 envelope holders who have not made a recorded contribution this year. In addition, we have 166 households with no envelopes.
8. Rev. Morris raised the question, how do you want your staff and committees to prepare their budgets for 2003? Do we want to continue to fund deficits from reserves which we have as a result of receiving undesignated bequests? This reserve could be greatly diminished or eliminated if these funds and future bequests are invested in the building.
9. Rev. Morris supports, without reservation, the process of the Building Committee as they evaluate the refurbishment of this building and the building of a new facility. He is humbled by the level of dedication of the laity of our church. Also attached is "A Proposal for Church Meetings".

**Associate Pastor,** Rev. Joan Hutchinson, distributed her report (attached). Some of her comments are as follows:

1. Disciple Bible Study 3 and 4 will begin September 17 and 18. You must have taken DBS 1 in order to sign up for DBS 2 or DBS 4.
2. Disciple Bible Study 1 will be offered when we can get at least 8 people to sign up for it. Please contact Joan to let her know when is a convenient time to meet.
3. Both men and women are invited to attend a Tuesday morning class taught by Betty Ann Berry titled "Old Testament Women", starting at 9:30 a.m. in Room 135.
4. Bob Smyth will be teaching the Seeker's Class on Tuesday mornings starting September 10 at 10:30 a.m. in Felten Parlor.
5. October 1 Pastor Morris will lead the study "Ten Commandments, a Foundation for Life." One class will meet Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in Felten Parlor, and a second class will meet on Wednesdays at 7:30, starting October 2 in his study.
6. Rev. Kathy Morris will lead a study "Dreams, a Way of Listening to God", starting Wednesday October 7 at 7:30 in the Small Parlor.
7. A new and exciting twelve-week Bible study, called Alpha, will begin Sept. 23 at 6:00 p.m. in Felten Parlor, and will look at what the Christian faith is all about. This is for those seeking answers to questions and those seeking a refresher course. The course will be led by Connie Windus.

8. Please contact Joan, Audrey Frank or Pastor Morris if interested in taking the Stephen Ministry training. New class will start in January.
9. On World Wide Communion Sunday, we hope to have enough volunteers to take communion to all our shut-ins, so that they too can feel a part of the body of Christ world-wide.
10. A women's retreat is scheduled for the end of October, with the Rev. Laney Price from Pitman UMC as leader.
11. Rev. Kathy Morris will lead a bereavement support group starting Tuesday, at 7:30 p.m. September 10 in the Small Parlor.
12. Joan reported that Russia now has Disciple Bible Study, which was started by a North Georgia Conference of Lay Ministries.

Joan asked for prayer for all the ministries that are going on here at HUMC and for the leaders and staff that Jesus Christ will be glorified in all that we do.

**Rev. Champ Goldy**, Visitation Pastor, reported on his busy summer. He conducted 4 weddings and 4 funerals. He preached in 3 retirement homes and visited 124 people in hospitals, nursing homes and in private homes where he has found some very alive people. Many of our older members need transportation to church.

**Wayne Richmond**, Music Director reported that rehearsals for the new service November 3 started three months ago. He feels that we are going to be able to have a group of musicians to present a new type of worship experience for the culture that surrounds us.

Jack and Sue Shaw are resuming leadership of New Sound Choir.

There were 42 members in Chancel Choir Sunday morning. Wayne has committed to calling every absentee from rehearsal every Friday morning. Individuals need to know someone cares.

The optional rehearsal for the September 11 musical presentation was held on the fourth with 100 people showing up. He expects more will participate on the 11th. There were a few dozen brand new people at the September 4 rehearsal. We have been able to advertise the concert in the "Philadelphia Inquirer". The concert should be a time of reflection and celebration.

**Youth Director**, Dan Stephens, prepared a report which is attached. Highlights of his report are as follows:

1. Dan traveled through Pennsylvania to Ohio and back with the New Sound Choir the last week of June, followed by a home concert. Stops included the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Gettysburg, Hershey Park and Shanksville, Pa. The stop in Shanksville was a very emotional experience because of the sacrifice of life on the part of the passengers of Flight 93 last September. Dan has made a conscious decision to surrender his life to help people.
2. Wednesday, September 18, is the annual prayer event, **See You At The Pole**, where students pray for their school, their teachers, their friends, for 30 minutes before school starts. They pray that they will be witnesses for Jesus Christ and that their school will be a safe place.
3. September 29 there will be a covered dish supper in Corson Hall for youth, parents and members of the congregation followed by a time of sharing by members of this summer's youth mission trip to New York City. The evening will include pictures, videos, testimonies, music and more.

**Director of Volunteer Ministry**, Barbara Smyth, submitted a written report (attached). Highlights include:

1. Thanks to all who respond to requests like clothing for the children in a fire, clothing for poor children to go to camp in Maine, business clothes for persons going back to work, food for the hungry (We are now out of food. The requests have been numerous), and all the various requests like deliver flowers from the church service, help with a medical problem for a member, and take meals for shut-ins.
2. We hosted two pastors from Russia this summer. One of them bought a candle lighter that she saw being used in our service. When she returned to Russia, she learned she had no wicks. Hal Schiffman took wicks to her since he was leaving for Russia the next day!  
Our own HUMC member, Ryan Kemble, had met the other pastor, Valerie Patkevitch, when he was on a mission to Russia last year, so this was a special experience for Ryan to meet Valerie again.
3. Barbara announced a Retreat for women at Port O Call October 25 and 26, 2002.

**Coordinator of Children's Ministries**, Leslie Robinson, reported that Sunday School started this past Sunday. Rally Day is this coming Sunday, September 15, with games from 9-10:30.

September 22 teachers will be dedicated and the third graders will receive their Bibles.

October 6 is a roller skating party at the Cherry Hill Skating Center from 5:30-7:00.

Mother's Morning Out started this week with 24 children. Only 2 children were upset, so it was a good day.

Discover classes will start for children in first to third grade on Wednesday evenings from 6:15 to 7:00.

## **Old Business:**

Rev. Morris reported on "A Proposal for Church Meetings", asking all members to study it and come back next month with a decision.

**New Business:** Frank Wisniewski told of sending an e-mail to Pat Del Camp, Rev. Morris, and Rev. Hutchinson in July, asking about the impact of our TV Ministry. If the purpose of this ministry is to minister to the shut-ins, he is suggesting taking tapes of our worship services to our shut-ins. A lot of discussion pro and con followed this suggestion. Pat Del Camp read excerpts from an article given to her by Wayne Richmond where it states that excellent churches periodically evaluate themselves and their programs. It was suggested that the TV Ministries Committee come back next month to discuss their Mission Statement and to evaluate the ministry. A Congregational Meeting could be called for further discussion.

Frank Cahill submitted a proposal to Network the Church Office. He and Walt Earley have researched many possibilities of getting e-mail into our church's computer system. They have come up with a computer big enough to do all the things needed in our church. The purchase of a Client Server was suggested, not to exceed \$33,000. This request was given to the Finance Committee which has been approved by them and the Trustees.

**Finance Committee** Chairperson, Charles Bowen, announced approval of the purchase of the above mentioned computer, not to exceed \$33,000, at their July meeting with funding coming from the Emergency Endowment Funds. A motion was made, seconded and passed to purchase the computer.

The Finance Committee would like to submit a budget to the Administrative Council at their October or November meeting. Problems are as follows:

For the last few years, we have not had a balanced budget. They are going to try to present a budget with a reduction of \$100,000. Half of our budget is salaries. We will probably have to borrow money to fund the construction because it will take less time than our three years of pledging. There will be some interest charged.

**Building Committee** Chairperson, Frank Wisniewski, will be writing a report to the congregation on the bulletin cover stating a need to determine the vision of the church for the next 25 years. He referred to Carol Scarborough's survey of several years ago. He spoke of the condition of the Thomas and Eggleston buildings. We will be looking at more than rehabilitation and refurbishment. We need to be wheelchair accessible. He will give the congregation options and prices. Frank expressed amazement at all the talent involved in this process.

**Staff Parish Relations Committee** Chairperson, Mark Whitehead's report was given to hire Sue and Jack Shaw to direct the New Sound Choir and for Alysyn Stoffel to direct the Children's Choir.

**Trustees Report** was given by Dinny Traver. She reported that skateboarding will no longer be allowed in our parking lot because of the potential danger involved. There has been one accident recently, so signs have been posted to this effect.

Dinny reported that the Hinchman Avenue former parsonage is almost completely razed.

Meeting was closed with a prayer circle as Pat Del Camp closed with prayer.

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Janet Neiswender