

Haddonfield United Methodist Church

Charge Conference December 3, 2001

Rev. Ron Watts called the Charge Conference to order, asking all to join in singing "Blessed Assurance" and "Oh How I Love Jesus". Jack Shaw, Lay Leader, was asked to read I Corinthians 13 and we all were asked to listen to it as if we were hearing it for the first time.

Mr. Arthur Spell, District Lay Leader, was introduced. He read John 13:34, 35 where we are told to love one another which will prove to the world that we are His Disciples.

Ron Watts spoke of the many ways the rich, deep love of agape love was shown during the recent attack of the World Trade Towers. Some people were willing to run back into the buildings to help people escape while others were leaving the buildings. He implored us to "Evangelize" and if necessary, use words.

A videotape message from Bishop Johnson was shown where the United Methodist Church's "Igniting Ministry" thirty second TV messages were mentioned. It is a ministry of hospitality where all are welcomed into our churches.

Staff Reports

Senior Pastor, Rev. George Morris, expressed joy for the opportunity to build a new future on the strong foundation of this church's ministry. Rev. Morris has been influenced by the writings of Robert K. Greenleaf on the subject of servant leadership. He states, "This is what servant leadership is all about; helping consensus, voluntary and durable consensus, to evolve." With the staff and lay leadership praying, studying, talking, dreaming, and participating in the April Future Search Conference with Dr. Stanley Menking, Rev. Morris believes we will, by God's grace, reach consensus around God's new vision. George thanked his wife, Kathy, for being supportive of his busyness, He also expressed gratefulness for the warm and generous welcome this congregation has given Kathy and him and also thanked the whole staff...Joan, Dan, Wayne, Harriet, Champ, Barbara Smyth, Linda, Frieda, Barbara Finnie, Denise, Leslie, Marti, Myrtle, Walt, Pat, Howard and Oscar for being a professional and hard working team!! Each one has been patient with him and has made his transition into HUMC a most comfortable experience.

Associate Minister, Joan Hutchinson, reported that the big change in her responsibilities at HUMC is that she is no longer responsible for the TV Ministry. It is now in the capable hands of Jack Shaw. Joan is working with new members for the first time. Premarital classes and pre-baptism classes are two of the new events that began this fall. This fall we have three classes of Disciple Bible Study in progress: II, III, and IV, and will be offering Disciple Bible Study I in January. A goal is to have a spiritual retreat for the women in our church.

Lay Ministries Coordinator, Barbara Smyth, reported there is a new spirit flowing through this church and we have the goal to make all Disciples of Jesus Christ.

Minister of Visitation, Champ Goldy, stated that he is happy to have George and Kathy here and that there is a good spirit here at Haddonfield Methodist. Champ's main pinch point is that we need to extend a welcome to those we don't know in a service of worship.

Youth Minister, Dan Stephens, thanked this church for allowing him to attend school two days a week as he pursues a degree in psychology. He expressed gratitude to all our church members who helped the family in town who were involved in a fire on Thanksgiving Eve 2000. He appreciates the large number of adults who are assisting in the youth ministry. His biggest thrill this past year was the 24 youth who made commitments to Jesus Christ. He appreciates the adult leadership in this church who welcome a youth member to every committee in the church. Instead of the youth being the church of tomorrow, Dan emphasized that the youth are the church. The mission project this coming year will take our youth into New York City. His personal goal is to spend more time with the youth on an individual basis this coming year. Our youth need someone to listen.

Music Minister, Wayne Richmond, shared the fact that this is Christmas No. 4 for Harriet and him. Wayne emphasized that our choir's ministry is to lead the congregation in worship and is not a performance. He is grateful for the friends they have made here. A great deal is owed to Barbara Smyth, Chaplain of the Chancel Choir. Wayne is struggling with the whole area of New Sound's transition phase. The seniors in the choir are the last group to have been involved with the music ministry of Lisa and John Wilson. There are many 9th graders and under in the choir, so they are struggling for identity. He likes them as people a lot and asks for prayer for New Sound Choir members.

George Morris reported for The **Committee on Lay Leadership** and thanked Barbara Finnie for securing faxes and e-mails, but the computer "ate" the information. She is in the process of compiling all the information again. He proposed the following committee chairpersons:

Missions Chairperson:	Peter Hall
Church and Society Chairperson:	Dolores Baker
Evangelism Chairperson:	Gerald Reynolds
Lay Members to Conference:	Blaine Purnell and Barbara Smyth
Alternate Lay Delegate:	Myrtle Stillwell
Recommended Lay Speakers:	James Hetherington, Barbara Smyth, and John Hutchinson

A motion was made, seconded and passed that we accept the above-mentioned chairpersons for 2002.

Rev. Ron Watts thanked Ron Sandmeyer and all the trustees for their work during this past year. Ron then asked him to give a report of the total bequests given this past calendar year. A total of \$167,738.96 has been received in bequests.

Ron Sandmeyer, Chairperson of the Trustees, thanked Walt Earley for updating the financial numbers for the annual report that is submitted to Annual Conference. Ron also thanked the nine trustees that serve on the Board for the many hours of work as they deliberated this past year. Ron also expressed thanks to Bill Faust for the time he devotes to the day-to-day tasks of this church.

Staff Parish Relations Committee Chairperson, Frank Wisniewski, stated that the committee did not try to manipulate the process of choosing a new senior pastor, as they trusted in God and prayer during the process. The process took several meetings with the committee and Rev. Watts. He congratulated Rev. Watts on his incredible note taking because he remembered every concern of our committee. Frank firmly believes the right decision was made to this church for the re-appointment of Joan and for the appointment of George Morris. As a result, Staff Parish has not met recently. He thanked Ron Watts and the committee for their diligent work. He expressed concern that the budget is still \$115,000 short and that Administrative Council will have to look closely at income and expenses and must make some difficult decisions about the possible cut of some programs. He is convinced prayer can solve our problems.

Rev. Watts thanked Frank and the committee for thorough and hard work this past year.

Lay Leader, Jack Shaw, gave a quote from the "Fantasticks" as he reflected on a time of transition and a changing of the guard. He appreciates the fact that he is assisting in baptisms and new member classes.

Ron Watts thanked Art Spell, District Lay Leader from the Merchantville United Methodist Church, who has been with him to 65 Charge Conferences this year. Mr. Spell said it is a joy to journey with Ron. Mr. Spell thanked this church for its outreach and expressed gratefulness for what he has seen and heard tonight.

Ron Sandmeyer expressed appreciation to Frank Cahill and Charlie Bowen who are involved in the finances and budgeting of this church.

A motion was, made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. An invitation was given to all to participate in a social time of cake and beverages.

Janet Neiswender