

**ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
August 14, 2007**

OUR VISION STATEMENT

*“Christian disciples called to transform our community and world through God’s love.”*

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*“We, the members of St. Luke’s United Methodist Church, are an inclusive, Christ-centered community of faith seeking through worship, prayer, service, education and fellowship to respond creatively to God’s call to welcome, love, and care for others.”*

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council Chair, Ron Dorenbusch. There were 20 members present. Ron welcomed Katelyn Cianelli as the new Youth Council representative.

**DEVOTION**

Sam Motley reflected on a recent experience with a relative facing death and their struggle to make peace with loved ones. He shared a story told by singer/song writer, Mark Shultz about forgiveness—letting go of our past burdens, freeing ourselves in Christ and moving on with our lives. He read the lyrics of a song that asked “what will we do with the time that has passed and the time we have left?” Sam closed in prayer.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes for **July 10, 2007** were approved as submitted.

**OLD BUSINESS / FOLLOW-UP**

1. Members were encouraged to sign up for the remaining two vacancies for devotions and refreshments.

**ITEMS REQUIRING DISCUSSION FOR ACTION / APPROVAL**

1. **Motion from the Operating Policy Review Committee: Request to approve the proposed Operating Policies** (The proposed Operating Policies were posted to the church’s website for all to review prior to this meeting.)
  - a) Pastor Doug explained that the review results were mostly a fine tuning of the policies with very few changes. He noted that effective immediately the policies will include the date adopted, the date revised and the date reviewed. Policies will be reviewed yearly by a committee appointed by the Operating Policy Review Committee chairman.

**APPROVED: September 11, 2007**

- b) Members noted that some changes to the policies were submitted that may not have made it on the revised version. One of these changes is the policy for reserving the church van or bus. The request form currently included in the policy is no longer required since reservations are now made electronically which provides a better means of tracking the reservations. It was suggested that this change be communicated to the congregation via newsletter and bulletin announcements.
- c) It was clarified that policies can be changed as necessary with the approval of the Church Council so a vote was called to approve the proposed Operating Policies.

**Motion was unanimously APPROVED.**

## **REPORTS / ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### **Board of Trustees** (Tom Sayre)

1. Zach Roitz and his Boy Scout helpers completed the fire pit/dirt smoothing **Eagle Scout project**. It really looks good, and it is fairly mobile if we have to move it after the building project commences.
2. Garnett Knabe was asked to consider three **repair needs at Castellow** for an Eagle Scout project. The needs are: replace rotted front porch railing, repair and repaint lower part of the garage door and repair the rear fence gate. We're waiting for his reply.
3. There will be a "**Chandelier Cleaning Party**" on Saturday, September 15 at 9:00 a.m. Tom Sayre is coordinating with those who have previously helped with this project and welcomes the help of others.

### **Worship Ministry** (Kenna Rusk and Brenda Ramsey)

1. **Acolyte training and recruitment** will start in September.
2. **Homebound Communion Outreach Ministry** will have a dedication at all three services on Sunday, September 9, 2007.

### **Outreach Ministry** (Karen Berardini and Pat Murphy)

1. **A neighborhood visitation of the Grafton area is planned for Saturday, September 8 at 2:30 p.m.** The group will meet at church, have a training session, go out into the area to give out information packets and invite people to St. Luke's, then return to St. Luke's for dinner and debriefing. Outreach is hoping that a large number of church leaders will take part.
2. A **preschool story hour** took place on Tuesday mornings in the church library. Average attendance (including caregivers) was about 20. Most of these were not members of the church. Several participants expressed interest in having the program again next summer.
3. Sign-up is underway for the **Reading Tutoring program** at Grafton Bethel.
4. John and Kathy Murphy were mentors for the Newcomer's Seminar class that took place on Sunday, July 15.
5. The **Drive-Thru Nativity** is scheduled for Friday and Saturday December 7 and 8. Sign-ups will begin in early September for Actors, Scene Managers, Hospitality Workers, Traffic Controllers, etc.
6. We are planning a **TV ad campaign** for the Advent season. We have spent less than expected for the church library, so have the funds remaining to do this. We plan to do it again in 2008, both at Lent and Advent.

### Nurture Ministry (Mary Ellis and Donna Dorenbush)

1. **Newcomers' Dinner** – Many thanks to Joyce Wilson for the delicious meal provided following the Newcomers' Seminar on July 15. The next seminar/dinner is scheduled for September 16.
2. **College Students** – An Ice Cream Social was held at the parsonage on Sunday, August 5. Thanks to all who hosted, organized, and attended this fun event!
3. **Red Cross Blood Drive** – 47 pints of blood were collected during the bloodmobile on August 7. Thanks to the coordinators, workers, and donors for a successful blood drive.

### Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) (Pete Prindle)

No report.

### Treasurer (Chuck Harris)

1. **Electronic copies of the July financial report** have been distributed to members of the Council by e-mail.

### Finance Ministry (Sam Motley)

1. The Finance Committee last met on July 10, 2007. The committee discussed various church financial related matters. **Highlights included:**
  - a) Chuck Harris, treasurer, provided a detailed financial update, including monthly financial statements.
  - b) Other topics discussed included investments, the Audit Committee, and the 2008 financial plan (budget).
2. Also, please note that since the SLUMC annual Charge Conference meeting is not planned until December, we have **delayed the call for financial planning/budget submissions until the end of September**. We will plan to discuss the budget at the October Church Council meeting, and make revisions (if necessary) so the financial plan can be approved by the Church Council at the November meeting for submission at the Charge Conference.

### Building Ministry (Blair Ellis)

1. The **Building Committee met on 18 July and 9 August** to discuss and review in detail the initial drawings presented by Myler on 21 June. As a result of these meeting, the building committee is prepared to send proposed modifications to Myler so that they may adjust the current drawings. The following committee members and staff attended one or both of these meetings:  
*Betty Miller, Kathy Everhart, Joel Everhart, Megan Zahn, Joyce Wilson, Paul Robbins, Rob Anderson, Ken Engebretson, Pastor Clara, Pastor Doug, Paul Lapointe, Diana Donnelly, Bob Dye, Pete, Prindle, Tom Sayre, James Pace, Ron Dorenbush, and Blair Ellis*
2. Upon receipt of the next set of the revised drawings, we will plan on holding **meetings with the St. Luke's laity** in order to bring them up to date and to get input from the general membership. These meetings will be conducted on a Sunday following each service in the Fellowship Hall. After these initial meetings, we will plan to meet in smaller groups with the Sunday School classes in order to discuss in more detail.
3. The Building Committee members will take **another trip to Warwick Memorial United Methodist Church** tomorrow evening in order to see Warwick's new Celebration Center which is a recently opened \$3.5 M addition to their church which includes a high school size basketball/volley ball court, a new, large kitchen, an entry hall and a couple of offices. Church Council Members are certainly welcome to come along on this visit, if they so desire. The church bus will depart at 7:00 p.m.

### Communications Ministry (Ken Engebretson and Walt Baskin)

1. **WLRT will no longer be our broadcast station** as they have been sold. We evidently did not receive a letter sent about 5-6 weeks ago that disclosed the sale; we weren't alone as there were at least two others out of the 35-40 that should have been alerted well ahead of the cut-off date, according to the station manager who apologized to me.
2. Doug Barrett, owner of **Future Media Inc.** (224-6100), contacted me on August 10 to inform me of the capabilities of his company and how they might meet some of the broadcast needs of SLUMC. Doug was the former General Manager of AM 1490 about 6-7 years ago and left after Chuck Hall took over the station. Doug started up an Internet-based company focusing on audio and video streaming technologies. He said it was a slow start and they knew nothing about it prior to getting into the business. Futuremediaworld.com is a family-oriented site and has sports and religious "flavors" which are done using bit-streaming so people can listen or watch their teams or church services with only a 12-15 second delay from the live action. Mr. Barrett said he will give us a month free to try it out and then charge \$75 per week. He also archives the feed, therefore making it available at the time a listener links to it later, following the broadcast. He will also send us periodic CDs with the archived services. Doug maintains statistics of the numbers of listeners connecting and their location (communities/cities). Mr. Barrett will provide a custom opening and closing of the 11 o'clock service broadcast. **The St Luke's Internet broadcast can be reached at [www.futuremediaworld.com/stlukes.htm](http://www.futuremediaworld.com/stlukes.htm).**
3. The contract was signed in August with Audio Ethics, Inc., for the **replacement of Sanctuary mixers and amplifiers**. We will be scheduling installation to minimize any impact on the use of the Sanctuary as soon as possible.
4. The contract was signed in July with ProActivIT to provide **monthly maintenance on the staff computers**.

### Education Ministry (Theresa Butler and Betty Jane Turner)

#### *Youth:*

1. We had a great time at SPLAT. 25 people went and worshipped, prayed, played and learned through the themes of Seek, Pray, Learn, Act, Teach.
2. **Thursdays in the Summer** have been well attended and fun for all.
3. **Calendar Items:**
  - a) **Thursday, August 2:** Pool Night at Windy Point pool—9:00-11:00 p.m.
  - b) **Thursday, August 9:** Yorktown Beach—10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m
  - c) **Thursday, August 16:** Miniature Golf
  - d) **Thursday, August 23:** Yorktown Beach—10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
  - e) **Thursday, September 6:** 6<sup>th</sup> Graders Youth Group Welcome
  - f) **Sunday, September 9:** Fellowship of Clay School Year Kickoff
  - g) **Friday, October 5:** Middle School Lock-in
4. Jenn Wilcox added that the ASP 2008 Informational Meeting will be held on September 16 and the Kickoff on September 23.
5. Ron Dorenbush **thanked Jenn Wilcox and Rachel Drummond** (who was not present) for their service to Youth Council, Church Council and ASP and wished them Godspeed on their college adventures.

## United Methodist Women (UMW) (Chris Cianelli)

### *Local Church:*

1. Representatives for the **Welcome Desk** on August 20 will be the Sisters In Christ Circle before all church services
2. **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter UMW Unit Meeting** will be September 10. Our Devotion will be Candle Burning and our Program, led by James Pace, will be about being a “Green Church” here at St. Luke’s.
3. A **letter will be sent to all women** of the church informing them about UMW and inviting them to join a circle.

### *Peninsula District:*

1. Peninsula District’s **Hands on Mission Day** For United Methodist Women is on September 15.
2. **District Executive Meeting** at First UMC on September 19.
3. UMW have been asked to assist with greeting and ushering at the **District Revival “Extreme MAKEOVER You Edition”** on September 28–30 held at Woodside High School.
4. **Children’s Sabbath Service** will be held at St. James UMC on October 14.

## United Methodist Men (UMM) (William Sutton)

### *Local Church:*

1. The **UMMen did not meet during the summer months** of June, July and August but will be back in full swing on September 16 with their regularly scheduled breakfast meeting. The program will be about the Lackey Free Family Medicine Clinic in York County. The breakfast and program are open to all men and women.
2. The **Men’s Ministry at St. Luke’s has been going strong all summer long.** Volunteers going to ASP, Katrina Relief, working around the church and grounds, teaching classes, ushering, Vacation Bible School, praying with others, reading scripture in worship, and greeting people on Sunday. All men of St. Luke’s are United Methodist Men by membership and when they volunteer, they are Men in Ministry. We thank each one of them for their dedication and service to others.

## Director of Discipleship Ministries (DDM) (James Pace)

1. **James expressed his gratitude for those who volunteered** to participate in VBS following his plea at last month’s meeting.
2. Our **Promotion Sunday** for children and youth classes is September 9. September 16 will be **Christian Education Sunday** with teacher dedication in the 8:30 and 11:00 services and our second graders receiving their Bibles and beginning the Bible Workshop in Sunday School.
3. The **attached sheet is a rough listing of all the classes** that are in the works for the coming year with date and time information for most listed. If you have any thoughts or ideas on other studies, please let me know.
4. On a personal note, as part of my transfer of ordination process, **James will be taking classes this fall** at the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University. The classes he will be taking meet on Saturday mornings.

**Senior Pastor** (Doug Gestwick)

1. **New members will be received** during three Sundays in August. The last New Comers Seminars had 18 in attendance.
2. There are currently **45 signed up to go to Israel** and only 5 spaces remain.
3. **Doug thanked all for being a wonderful church to summer intern, Meghan Roth.** She has had a great experience at St. Luke's.
4. The **Charge Conference** will be December 10 at 7:00 p.m.
5. **Doug and Clara will lead a marriage Bible study** on making love last a lifetime. Doug encourages members to make suggestions on desired Bible study topics.
6. **James Pace will be preaching** this coming Sunday.
7. **Doug read an e-mail response** to prayers from the United Methodist Church following the bridge collapse in Minnesota. He reminded us to never underestimate who we might touch when you reach out in Christ's name.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Next Church Council meeting: Tuesday, September 11, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.**
2. **The December meeting is scheduled for the day after the Charge Conference so rather than have a second meeting Church Council items requiring discussion or action should be presented as part of the Charge Conference on Monday, December 10.**
3. **September Devotions: Karen Berardini**
4. **September Refreshments: Kenna Rusk**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Council members brought praises and concerns, and Pastor Doug closed with prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

*Submitted by Debbie Fullhart, Church Council Secretary*