

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING / CHARGE CONFERENCE
MINUTES

December 10, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by District Superintendent, Myrtle Frances Hatcher followed by a hymn. There were 38 in attendance.

DEVOTION

Myrtle Frances Hatcher shared a devotion which focused on the district theme "*Tools for Kingdom Building*." She presented various tools that can help remind us of our tasks. *The Bible* – which is the blueprint, the instructions for building; a *Measuring Tape* – to measure how things are going and remind us not to start a project and just forget about it; a *Hammer* – to remind us that if something isn't working that we can smash it, throw it away and start over again; and *Duck Tape* – to remind us that with duck tape and time anything can be fixed. Myrtle closed in prayer

ACTION ITEMS / REPORTS FROM CHARGE CONFERENCE AGENDA

1. Items presented and approved included:
 - a) Clergy Compensation
 - b) Parsonage Housing Exclusion
 - c) Accountable Reimbursement Policy
2. Year-end Ministry, Historical and Statistical reports were provided as information.

ITEMS REQUIRING DISCUSSION FOR ACTION / APPROVAL

1. **From the Finance Ministry: Motion to adopt the 2008 Budget as presented at the November Church Council meeting.**
 - a) Thanks was expressed to Tom Lyon for his hard work and dedication on the Stewardship Campaign, to Bob Dye and all the offering counters for their commitment and to Jim Morrison for his work with the annual audit.
 - b) Myrtle Frances Hatcher noted that St. Luke's is one of the few churches that have paid 100% of its ministry commitments.

Motion was unanimously APPROVED.

2. **From the Floor: Motion was made by Pastor Doug Gestwick that a letter on behalf of the Church Council be mailed to Chuck Harris in appreciation for his dedication to managing the "Kingdom" funds at St. Luke's.**

Motion was unanimously APPROVED with follow up by Church Council secretary.

APPROVED: January 8, 2008

3. **From the Service Ministry: Motion to adopt the “Green Church Initiative Covenant” as presented at the November Church Council meeting.**

- a) Joe Posey reminded us of the first sentence of the covenant which reads, “*All creation is the Lord’s, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it.*” He highlighted the topics of the covenant and briefly covered ways in which we as a church could promote and execute these areas. Joe noted that some members and ministries currently have green initiative practices in place but signing the covenant makes it more formal and official.
- b) It was also noted that a Church Council position will be designated for this ministry which will help stress the importance of this initiative and that it has the full support of the Church Council.
- c) Myrtle Frances Hatcher opened the floor for questions and discussion.

Motion was unanimously APPROVED.

VISION OF ST. LUKE’S

1. **Trip to Israel** – A group of 48 including Senior Pastor, Doug Gestwick will travel to Israel in February 2008 where they will be in middle of peace talks between Palestine and Israel, get to visit a new archeological site and partake in many other historic opportunities.
2. **Children’s Church** – James Pace is working on details to bring this ministry back for our children.
3. **Worship** – Pastor Doug noted that our worship services are “three flavors of vanilla.” Plans are underway to explore alternative forms of worship to reach the people who need to be reached. Thanks was expressed to Karen Berardini for her work with the neighborhood visits. It was also noted that the purchase of the church bus has provided an area of ministry which has never been used.
4. **Youth Director Search** – Unfortunately, the interviewing process is almost back to square one. We believe the right person for the job is out there and the committee is determined not to settle for just good enough. It is hopeful that the process will stay within the original deadline.
5. **New Staff Position** – Since the church budget is approaching \$1 million dollars it is necessary to develop a new staff position to overtake the duties of the Treasurer which will be vacated in the coming months by Chuck Harris.
6. **Communication** – The 11:00 a.m. worship service can now be heard on the internet. Pastor Doug has challenged the Communication Ministry to have the capabilities in place for the Israel travelers to be able to pray and worship with St. Luke’s *live*.
7. **Hurricane Relief in Gulfport** – Thanks was expressed to Ron Dorenbusch and others for their service and commitment to hurricane rebuilding. Trinity UMC will no longer be able to support this effort with meals and shelter but the efforts will continue. All are especially excited that the trip over the Christmas holiday will include 11 youth who are ready and willing to serve.
8. **United Methodist Women** – Faye Keenan reported that access funds from UMW fundraisers and project were distributed to various church and community ministries. She thanked the St. Luke’s congregation for their endless generosity. Myrtle Frances Hatcher encouraged St. Luke’s to reach out and involve smaller churches with the many wonderful events that happen at our church.

9. **Statistics** – Worship attendance has increased over 2006 and for the first time in many years we are reporting a net gain of 38 members, rather than a loss! The most significant aspect of the growth is the 22 of those new members came from profession of faith – persons who made a commitment to Jesus Christ for the first time. Amen!
10. **Nothing but Nets** – St. Luke’s was challenged to contribute \$10,000 to this ministry averaging about \$10 per person. Contributions came in totaling just over \$9,000. Amen!

DISTRICT NEWS

1. **Peninsula District Leadership Training** – 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Saturday, January 12 at Williamsburg UMC.
2. **Martin Luther King Celebration** – A district-wide celebration honoring Martin Luther King will be held on Sunday, January 27 at Bethany UMC in Hampton. This 3-hour event comes on the 40th anniversary of his death and will focus on his stand for non-violence.
3. **Extreme Makeover YOU** – The purpose of this event was to reach people beyond our church with church members inviting them to attend. Unfortunately, the nature of the UMC is we do not know how to invite the unchurched so the event was attended by mostly UMC people. The youth event was very positive and well attended. The mission project was also successful raising \$5,200 for the Lackey Free Clinic and \$2,000 for Heart Haven.
4. **District Office Relocated** – The District Office located on Shoe Lane for the past 30 years is now temporarily located in the Noland UMC on Huntington Avenue in Newport News. There are currently complications with building permits so plans for the Shoe Lane location are tentative.

ADJOURNMENT

1. Pastor Doug extended a personal thank you to all the Lay Leaders for their commitment and dedication and expressed what a pleasure and privilege it is to be at Saint Luke’s United Methodist Church.
2. A special Thank You was expressed to District Superintendent, Myrtle Frances Hatcher.
3. William Sutton closed with prayer followed by a hymn.
4. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by Debbie Fullhart, Church Council Secretary