

**ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 13, 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.”

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 p.m. by the Council Chair, Ron Dorenbush. There were 16 members present. Pete Prindle led our devotion continuing with the Discipleship theme. Pete referenced several scriptures detailing ways in which all can be good disciples. A print out of this information was made available for future reference. Pete closed with prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. The minutes for **January 9, 2007** were approved as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS / FOLLOW-UP

1. As an action item from the January Church Council meeting, a new signature card submission was completed and submitted to the bank. However, the bank required minutes from a Board (or Church Council) meeting showing the election of officers. Sam Motley worked with Debbie Fullhart and the bank to get the issue resolved.
2. The Ad Hoc Committee that was recommended in December has reviewed and updated the authorized voucher signature list. Betty Brummer presented the proposed 2007 Authorized Voucher Signatures and 2007 Authorized Voucher Signatures on 4-digit Code Accounts (provided as attachments). The following discrepancies were noted:
 - a) As per the Financial Report **6051—Youth should be 6041** and **6052—Youth Special Events should be 6042**
 - b) **8011—Appalachia Service Project authorized signatures should include Co-Leaders of Service Committee**
 - c) **Director of Discipleship Ministries, James Pace requested that since he orders much of their materials, that he also be authorized to sign vouchers for Adult Sunday School class budget lines.** Betty Brummer stated that signing authority should remain with the individual class representatives. However, James Pace could be given signing authority by class representatives in writing or by e-mail.
 - d) After final discussion Betty Brummer of the **Ad Hoc Committee made the motion listed below.**

ITEMS REQUIRING DISCUSSION FOR ACTION / APPROVAL

1. **Motion from the Ad Hoc Committee:** Approval of the proposed 2007 Authorized Voucher Signatures and 2007 Authorized Voucher Signatures on 4-digit Code Accounts.

Motion was unanimously APPROVED with the above changes.

2. **Motion from the Ad Hoc Committee:** Request appointment of an Ad Hoc Chair who will form a committee. Ron Dorenbusch recommended that Betty Brummer be appointed the Ad Hoc Committee Chair.

Motion was unanimously APPROVED.

3. **Motion from the Education Ministry:** Approval for youth to receive donations for a pancake dinner they will serve on Shrove Tuesday (February 20) to coincide with Nurture Ministry's Lenten Workshop. The donations will help fund the Seek Pray Learn Act Teach (SPLAT) conference. The conference will be July 11-15, 2007 in Greensboro NC. We anticipate 25 participants from St. Luke's.

Motion was unanimously APPROVED.

4. **Motion from the Staff Parish Relations Committee:** Adoption of the revised **Child Protection Policy and Procedures**. *James Pace distributed copies of the revised Child Protection Policy and Procedures previously adopted by the Staff Parish Relations Committee. Following passionate discussion Church Council Chair, Ron Dorenbusch called for a vote.*

Motion was APPROVED with a vote of 11 approved and 2 opposed.

REPORTS / ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Worship Ministry (Kenna Rusk and Brenda Ramsey)

1. The Prayer Ministry is working to **establish a prayer group** that would pray before each worship service specifically for that particular service (to include the congregation, pastors, teachers, and concerns).
2. The **Usher Guidelines** have been revised and were reviewed at the February 4 usher meeting.

Lenten preparations:

- a) Communications Coordinator, Megan Zahn is finalizing the **Lenten Brochure** that will be mailed.
- b) **Ash Wednesday** services will be at 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., and will include scripture and imposition of ashes.
- c) **Palm Sunday services** will begin five minutes earlier to allow time for the blessing of the palms.
- d) **Maundy Thursday service** will be at 7 p.m. and will include foot/hand washing and re-creation of The Last Supper.
- e) **Good Friday Tenebrae service** will be at 7 p.m.
- f) **Easter Sunday – four services**, UMM will serve breakfast following the sunrise service.

Building Ministry (Blair Ellis)

1. The St. Luke's Building Committee met twice in January, once to review St. Luke's inputs to the Myler planning document and the second time to meet with Tom Walker and John Ozmore, Myler design/build experts. The St. Luke's staff and Building Committee met with the Myler Design/Build team on Sunday, 21 January 2007, and **discussed the St. Luke's planning document and answered any questions** that Myler may have had regarding the current structure and possible future building options.
2. Both Tom and John had the **opportunity to see St. Luke's in "action"** on Sunday with the UMM/UMW joint breakfast, the three Sunday Services, Sunday School, and our joint meeting with Myler over lunch furnished by Kathy Everhart in the Fellowship Hall. The Myler team had an excellent opportunity to see all aspects of St. Luke's both inside and outside with all questions being answered during the day.
3. The committee was notified by Tom Walker on February 5 that **they have put together a proposed plan of action** and per telephonic discussion with him they are finishing some remaining details with regard to York County and Dominion Power and the power line area on the Fellowship Hall side of the church. As soon as a time can be coordinated for the Myler team to return to St. Luke's, they will present their proposed plan.
4. For the upcoming meeting with Myler, the Myler team will present their "feasibility study" and "plan" for St. Luke's building program. **It is planned to open the meeting to all who wish to attend** – Building Committee, Staff, Church Council members, and laity... as interested. It is best to come and hear the presentation first hand.

Education Ministry (Theresa Butler and Betty Jane Turner)

Youth:

1. Nominations for additional Youth Council Members have begun. With the anticipation of departing seniors there is a need to fill the following positions for the July—June term: Co-chairs (2) and one each high school and middle school leader.
2. There are two female youth spots available for this summer's SPLAT conference. The last male position to a young man from Tabernacle UMC Poquoson whose youth group is not attending SPLAT.
3. **Calendar Items:**
 - a) **February 25** – Ice Skating at Iceplex 5:30-8:00 p.m.
 - b) **March 7** – Next Youth Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.
 - c) **March 23-25** – High School "Impact" trip to Ocean City MD
 - d) **April ???** – Flamingo Flocking begins (funds for SPLAT)
 - e) **April 29** – Anticipating a 5th Sunday Youth Worship on Sunday Night during Youth Group meeting or 30hr Famine project (27-28 April)
 - f) **May 6** – Car Wash outside Fellowship Hall 12:00-3:00 (donations for SPLAT)
 - g) **June 1** – Gong Show Fellowship Dinner and Fundraiser 6:30 p.m. (funds to SPLAT)
 - h) **June 3** – Car Wash outside Fellowship Hall 12:00-3:00 (donations for SPLAT)
 - i) **July 11-15** – SPLAT (Youth 2007) in Greensboro NC

Outreach Ministry (Karen Berardini and Pat Murphy)

1. The Outreach Ministry Team met Monday, February 5.
2. Jean Foster has agreed to serve as the **Hospitality Center coordinator** and is at work updating the schedule and materials.
3. **Thanks to all ministry information presenters** for the February 11 Newcomer's Seminar. Deb and Kent Fuller are serving as mentors for this group of newcomers.

4. All Sunday School classes from Kindergarten through adults will be contacted to serve as **Fellowship Moment Hosts** once per quarter.
5. Pat Murphy and Rita Atherton will meet with Pastor Doug to begin plans for a **Singles Ministry Kick-Off** in late spring. Research as to what is working in other churches is currently in progress. This ministry will most likely begin as a combination study/fellowship with hopes of adding a service component. Think about single people you know (church members and others) that you could invite to participate.
6. Karen Berardini will make **brief Evangelism and Hospitality announcements** during worship services in March.
7. It was decided to **postpone the Summer '08 International Teaching mission trip**. Pastor Doug is planning a congregation trip to Israel in February 2008 which may include a service opportunity.
8. The next Outreach meeting will be Monday, March 5 at 4:00 p.m.
9. Karen Berardini **reemphasized the need for ministry area leaders to meet periodically** to look at not only overlapping event dates, but more importantly to determine if ministries of the church are ultimately heading in the same direction. One possibility discussed was to devote an entire Church Council meeting for this purpose. A January-March time frame was discussed giving new council members time to get settled into their positions and become familiar with their ministry areas. It was also suggested that the time of budget planning would be the ideal time to meet as leaders are already thinking ahead. Another possibility discussed was to hold the meeting away from St. Luke's in a more relaxed, informal retreat-like setting with all committee members attending to discuss church vision and goals. Communications Coordinator, Megan Zahn stated that the long awaited on-line calendar is nearly complete and perhaps this tool of consolidating all church events would be necessary for a productive planning meeting. No final decision was determined.

Service Ministry (Joe Posey and Joe Vallow)

1. **The Brunswick Stew sale**, a fund-raiser by the St Luke's Relay For Life teams, will now be held on **March 4 instead of March 11**. This has been cleared through Administrative Coordinator, Joyce Wilson for conflicts with the kitchen. Ticket sales for purchasing quarts of the stew will be taking place on February 18 and 25.
2. Debbie Frecker reported that the **Easter Egg Project** would have a kick off meeting February 14. It is planned to modify the egg box labels to include some basic contact information for SLUMC (worship times, web address, etc.)
3. The **ASP spring trip** to West Virginia currently has seven volunteers and is need of a few more. Preparations for the summer trip to Kentucky are on track.
4. The Service Ministry Committee has **purchased a new trailer**, and there are many options being considered for outfitting it and maximizing its use. It may be used for more than just a tool trailer so Kathryn Budzik, Joe Vallow, Ron Dorenbush, and Joe Posey will look in to how other churches have used such equipment. Service will work with the Trustees to develop a policy for use of the trailer.
5. Ron Dorenbush has three additional **trips to Gulfport, Mississippi** planned. The next will be in early March and has seven volunteers.
6. Options were discussed for **uses of the new church bus**. Phil Comstock reported that they had about 12 members working to obtain their CDL. Some future uses for the bus may include, supporting the PORT shelter when St. Luke's is a partner church and organizing rides to church events for older members.
7. Suzi Smith reported that the **Congolese refugees** were adapting fairly well. Six of the young men are considering a trip to Washington DC for Job Corps training.

8. Suzi Smith reported that the **UMW will facilitate workshops** on prayer and self denial and a “green church.”
9. William Sutton reported that there were 75 present at the **joint UMW/UMM breakfast** in January which focused on the military marriage mission as part of Campus Crusade for Christ.
10. William Sutton reported that St. Luke’s has served the **PORT shelter** three times in this season and has one additional session remaining. Thus far, volunteer help has been abundant and things have gone well. The number of overnight clients has topped out at 105 this season.
11. Mike Mellen submitted the following **Good Samaritan Fund report** for January:

\$4,030.55	Beginning balance
\$1,551.00	Receipts
\$497.37	Disbursements
\$5,084.18	Ending balance
12. The Service Ministry Committee will continue to meet at 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month.

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) (Pete Prindle)

1. The SPRC met Wednesday, January 10.
2. Director of Discipleship Ministries, James Pace distributed a draft of the revised “**Child Protection Policy and Procedures.**” This policy, when approved by the Church Council, will be given to all Sunday School teachers, Adult Class room leaders, Ministry Areas, Staff and to those organizations using the church facilities. The following will be responsible for specific areas:

Staff	<i>Clara Gestwick</i> , Associate Pastor
All church volunteers	<i>James Pace</i> , Director of Discipleship Ministries
Community	<i>Joyce Wilson</i> , Administrative Coordinator
3. **SPRC Handbook** information was distributed.
4. The Book of Discipline requires that **SPRC hold four meetings per year**. It was the consensus of the committee members to meet quarterly on the first Thursday. The next regular meeting will be April 5, 2007.
5. The **Pastoral Evaluation and Recommendation** for both pastors was discussed. Those present unanimously agreed that the pastors be recommended to the Peninsula District for reappointment.

United Methodist Women (UMW) (Esther Balser for Chris Cianelli)

Local Church:

1. St. Luke’s UMW now has an **updated brochure** and copies are available at the Hospitality Desk.
2. St. Luke’s Unit is still in **need of a Vice-President**.
3. St. Luke’s UMW 2007 **Membership Roster** should be ready by next month.
4. Our unit hosted a very successful **District UMW Pep Rally** on February 3.
5. The UWM will **continue to staff the hospitality Desk the 3rd Sunday** of each month and will **usher on the 5th Sundays** of the year.
6. The UWM Unit **quarterly meetings** are:
 - a) **April 10**, 12 Noon – Luncheon—Bettye Simmons, Executive Director of SAFEHAVEN, a shelter for abused and neglected children, will be guest speaker
 - b) **September 10**, 6:00 p.m. – Covered Dish—Social Action program TBA
 - c) **November 11**, 8:15 a.m. – Breakfast—World Thank Offering

7. **Book Club** will meet next on March 5 and discuss *Addicted to Hurry* by Kirk B. Jones.
8. St. Luke's unit has set aside money to **send a young woman to VUMAC events** in Blackstone.
9. UMW still has **Sun catchers available** and can be purchased for \$18. They make good going away gifts or new member gifts.

Peninsula District:

1. The **Cost of Special Mission Recognition pins** have increased to \$40 for basic pin.
2. The **Prayer breakfast** will be at Williamsburg UMC on March 10, 2007 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. The cost is \$10 and speaker Sylvia Powell topic will be "*Sister to Sister.*"
3. **Next executive meeting** will be at Warwick Memorial UMC on March 21.
4. The **Green Workshop** will be held April 28 at Warwick Memorial UMC.

United Methodist Men (UMM) (William Sutton)

Local Church:

1. St. Luke's UMMen Fellowship met on January 21, 2007 with a great pancake breakfast and a joint UMMen and UMWomen event with a total of 75 attendees. The program was given by Mike and Linda Montgomery, who are missionaries for Military Ministry, a division of Campus Crusade for Christ. The program was well received and seems to be a ministry that will compliment our continuing relationship with the military presence in our area.
2. The UMMen Fellowship will meet again on February 18, 2007. Our scheduled program will be on the Heart Haven Home being built locally. The UMMen everywhere are great supporters of the Heart Haven Projects for the mentally disabled and those that live in the homes that are built for them.

Peninsula District:

1. The District UMMen Cabinet meeting for all officers was on January 8, 2007 at St. James, UMC in Hampton. This was a training session for all new officers of local fellowships. The next Cabinet meeting will be March 26, 2007 at St. Mark's UMC, Hampton.
2. The District UMMen General meeting was held on January 29, 2007 at First Hampton UMC, Hampton, with a program on Virginia Wesleyan College in Va. Beach, presented by Patrick Gainer, Director of Church Relations and Stewardship. The next General meeting will be April 23, 2007 at Crooks Memorial UMC, in Yorktown. All men and pastors are invited to dinner and fellowship.

Lay Leader Council (**Who is the leader of this committee?**)

1. The following **Lay Leaders will be representatives** to these ministry areas:
 - Finance – *Phil Jones*
 - Committee on Lay Leadership – *Dennis Crocker*
 - Staff Parish Relations Committee – *Blair Ellis*
 - Outreach – *Ginny Potts*
 - Communications – *Lisa Striepe*
 - Nurture and Education – *Melissa Koch*
 - Worship and Service – *William Sutton*
2. The **evangelism ministry event**, "*Opening the Front Door . . . Closing the Back*" held on January 27, was very good and provided many handouts with useful information.
3. Upcoming **Lay Speaking Academy Training** is February 23 – 25 in Blackstone, Virginia. Anthony and Kathryn Budzik plan to attend.

4. A **workshop will be held** March 10, 2007 at St. James UMC for congregations with New Neighborhoods Building Near the Church. The time is 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon.
5. Our next meeting will be held on March 8 at 4:30 p.m.

Nurture Ministry (Mary Ellis, Donna Dorenbush)

In Mary's absence, Ron Dorenbush read the following report:

1. **The Red Cross Blood Drive** will be held in the St. Luke's Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, February 20 from 3:30 – 7:30 p.m. Donors are needed as well as volunteers for refreshments, registration, and serving.

Treasurer (Chuck Harris)

1. The **Financial Report for January 2007** was available for information.

Director of Discipleship Ministries (DDM) (James Pace)

1. James Pace encouraged all to attend the Blood Drive, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, and craft making events on Tuesday, February 20.
2. The attendance will be 29 for Women's Retreat this Saturday, February 17.

Associate Pastor (Clara Gestwick)

1. Pastor Clara conveyed Pastor Doug's regrets for his absence as he was in Richmond with conference duties.
2. Clara also lifted up this weekend's Women's Retreat.

Senior Pastor (Doug Gestwick)

1. **Phenomenal response to Shalom, Salaam, Peace study – 110 people attending!** Study has gone in depth looking at similarities and differences between the Qu'ran and the Bible, and ways we can truly be the peacemakers. The study will conclude on February 19, with a Christian/Muslim/Jewish panel discussion.
2. Monday, February 12, Rev. **Doug will be in Williamsburg** all day for the lead-pastor training portion of the "Calling 21" program.
3. A **New Member's class** was held on February 11, with 24 new members in attendance as well as church leaders. Four couples/families will join this Sunday, February 18.
4. January saw well **over 500 in average attendance**, and it keeps climbing. I am **EXCITED** about the wonderful energy at St. Luke's.
5. I am the **Chair of the Conference Committee on Investigation**. Over the next 60 days I will periodically be out of the office, but will not be able to say where I am. The staff can always reach me on cell phone if needed.
6. **Doug, Clara and James will attend the Large Church Conference**, sponsored by the General Board of Ministries in Chattanooga, Tennessee March 7-10.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Next Church Council meeting: Tuesday, March 13, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.**
2. **March Devotions: Doug Gestwick**
3. **March Refreshments: Clara Gestwick**

ADJOURNMENT

Council members brought praises and concerns, and Pastor Clara closed with prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Submitted by Debbie Fullhart, Church Council Secretary