

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

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."

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Called Meeting 2008 Calendar Planning

**January 24, 2008
7:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Council Chair, Sam Motley. There were 23 members present.

DEVOTION

Sam Motley shared a devotion from *"The Upper Room"* entitled *"Drive By Blessings."* In one of the areas hit hard by hurricane Katrina and now a high crime area some folks are driving by those homes still struggling to rebuild and regroup and shouting from their cars *"We love you"* to everyone they see. We can follow this example with *"Walk by Blessings"* in the church halls on Sunday mornings. Say good morning to friends and to those you don't know as you pass each other in the hallways. Make eye contact or extend a hand shake. What a great way to spread to others the love of St. Luke's and of Christ. William Sutton closed with prayer.

NOTE FROM PASTOR DOUG

Our search is over! **Andrew Gehron has been hired as St. Luke's new Director of Youth Ministries.** Andy is 35 years-old and is a seminary graduate with a concentration in youth ministry. Andy, along with his new wife Lulette, will relocate this weekend and begin work on Monday while searching for an apartment.

MEETING PURPOSE

1. For Ministry area leaders to present event plans for 2008 for Church Council approval.
2. To develop a Master Calendar with all approved events posted.
3. To discuss the Vision of St. Luke's.
4. Discuss or act upon any issues arising from above items.

APPROVED: March 11, 2008

ITEMS REQUIRING DISCUSSION FOR ACTION / APPROVAL

1. **Motion from the United Methodist Men (UMM):** Request approval to hold a Fall Bazaar with proceeds designated for mission projects (TBD). This event is planned for Saturday, October 4, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the parking area next to the Fellowship Room. The Fellowship Room would be used in case of inclement weather. Tables would be rented for \$25 each for the sale of crafts, yard sale items, baked goods, etc. Tables would be offered to church members first and then to the community.

Motion was unanimously APPROVED

2. **Motion from the United Methodist Men (UMM):** Request approval to publicize in bulletin and newsletter that UMM accepts donations from the congregation for local and global missions not currently sponsored by St. Luke's. Dates to receive donations would be flexible and funds would be for designated missions only. Mission to receive donation would be voted on by the UMM prior to collection of the funds. These events will not affect the master calendar.

Motion was unanimously APPROVED

3. **Motion from the United Methodist Men (UMM):** Request approval to receive donations within the UMM for special projects. No requests will appear in bulletins or newsletters. This would be for projects that come up at monthly breakfast meetings or through other UMM communications. UMM would decide which project to sponsor and designated funds would be voted on prior to collection. These events will not affect the master calendar.

Motion was unanimously APPROVED

4. **Motion from the Carmines Sunday School Class:** Request approval to support the Virginia United Methodist Homes Samaritan Program with a No Dinner-Dinner fundraiser. This project helps provide quality care for the elderly so they may live out their remaining years in these homes once their financial assets have been depleted. Tickets will be on sale Sunday, February 17 and 24 for \$10 each and can be purchased for Carmines class members.

Motion was unanimously APPROVED

5. **Motion from the Easter Egg Committee** (Debbie Frecker): Request approval of Easter Egg Project mission/vision statement (see attachment).
 - a) Debbie Frecker presented a proposed mission and vision statement and a list of suggested recipients for review and approval. In order to give everyone a chance to review the statement **APPROVAL WAS DEFERRED** until the March Church Council meeting.

6. **Motion from the Service Ministry: Request approval to sell tickets for the Annual Kiwanis BBQ for ASP.** This event will be in April (date TBD) with tickets sales taking place for three Sundays prior to the event in the hallway T-intersection.

Motion was unanimously APPROVED

7. **Motion from the United Methodist Women (UMW): Request approval for the Sisters in Christ Circle to sell donuts to raise money for the Stop Hunger Now Project.** This event will be held Sunday, March 30 between worship services in the hallway T-intersection or weather permitting outside at the main entrance.

Motion was unanimously APPROVED

MASTER CALENDAR PLANNING

Most events which were either reoccurring or did not involve fundraising were discussed briefly, verified that there were no conflicts and added to the calendar. In keeping with our Green Church Initiative, an electronic version of the updated calendar will be provided as a separate attachment to be printed at your discretion. Please remember that this attachment is for individual reference and any changes or additions must go through Administrative Coordinator, Joyce Wilson. For updates please check the master calendar on the church's webpage.

VISION OF ST. LUKE'S

Sam Motley began this discussion with several definitions of the word "*Vision*"—*Potential, encourages unity, creates energy, provides purpose, enhances leadership, promotes excellence, allows risk, and sustains ministry.* Members raised the following concerns and comments:

- A reminder is needed of who we are and what we're about
- A Vision Statement is needed that all can recite on command, something simple
- Groups of the church stay inside their "box" and are reluctant to reach out
- The Sunday worship welcome is not very welcoming; bread is given to first time visitors but there is no follow up; how can we be intentional about welcoming without being overwhelming? Further discussion with Outreach Ministry and Church Council to follow
- There are many vacant leadership roles and a lack of volunteers; many come to worship and participate in events and programs but not as many are willing to serve
- Our expectations of our members are low; need to find ways to motivate and encourage folks to get involved; a personal invitation works best
- Follow up with inactive members is needed, this feed back can help us understand our direction and focus—who we are and what we do
- Keep in mind a motto once used by the Virginia Conference—*Reach, Relate, Equip, Send*

VISION FOLLOW UP

- Welcome intentionally; be a new visitor “plant” in worship and encourage our Sunday School classes to do the same
- Ask someone who is inactive to get involved with the hope they will say yes; if they say no now don’t assume they will never say yes; be prepared to give guidance
- Follow up on Commitment Surveys
- Think about what our vision statement should be—keep it short and concise—and discuss at the next Church Council meeting; since today’s generation is a visual one, come up with a “logo” that at a glance sums up our vision
- Revisit Vision Statement annually

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Pastor Doug addressed the issue of Alternative Giving** and would like to challenge the congregation to focus on one major ministry rather than having a fundraiser, or two every Sunday, particularly in the month of December. All missions are important but if we but all our focus on an event such as donating to the church an equal amount of what we spend on our family’s Christmas, and then disbursing these funds to various missions. Further discussion will take place at a summer Church Council meeting.
2. The **next Church Council meeting: March 11, 2008**. There will be **no February meeting** due to the Israel trip.
3. **March Devotions:** Megan Zahn
4. **March Refreshments:** Megan Zahn

ADJOURNMENT

1. Church Council members lifted up **Praises and Concerns** and Pastor Clara closed with prayer.
2. The **meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.**

Submitted by Debbie Fullhart, Church Council Secretary