

**ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
July 10, 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 7:31 p.m. by Council Chair, Ron Dorenbusch. There were 21 members present. Ron led a devotion from Romans 12 that reminds us to renew our minds and not be conformed to worldly things and people but rather be transformed and ascertain God’s will. The Book of Discipleship tells us that to do this we must spend time with God before we face the world. Before we turn on the television or the internet we should pray and read the Bible or devotion and prepare ourselves, body and soul, to be in the world as we are in the church.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes for **May 8, 2007** were approved as submitted.

**OLD BUSINESS / FOLLOW-UP**

1. The devotion/refreshment sign up sheet was distributed with most vacancies for upcoming Church Council meetings being filled.

**There were NO ITEMS FOR ACTION OR APPROVAL**

**ITEMS REQUIRING DISCUSSION**

1. **Worship Ministry: Bread for Visitors** – Avoline Warden coordinates this ministry (usually a year in advance), but which ministry area does it fall under?

It was determined that this ministry would fall under the Outreach Ministry. Outreach Ministry chair, Karen Berardini discussed some of the details and concerns as well as plans to purchase mugs which will be used as welcome gifts whenever bread is not provided or available.

2. **Building Ministry:** Blair Ellis discussed the status of the building plan (see Building Ministry Report on page 2).

**APPROVED: August 14, 2007**

## REPORTS / ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

### Building Ministry (Blair Ellis)

1. On June 21, the following members of the Building Committee, the Pastors, and the St. Luke's staff **met with John Ozmore and Steve Retorick of Myler** to review Myler's first draft drawings of St. Luke's: Pastor Doug, Pastor Clara, Paul Lapointe, Megan Zahn, Chuck Harris, Joel and Kathy Everhart, Pete Prindle, Betty Miller, Ken Engebretson, Paul Robbins, Tom Sayre, Meg Roth, Sam Motley, and Blair Ellis.
2. The Myler team provided us with a "**Design Meeting Packet**" which included photos of the "Myler Project Team," an estimate summary of the work to be done, a financial summary planning tool, drawings of St. Luke's with proposed new additions and a view of the rooms available with the new additions.
3. On June 25, a couple of Building Committee members went to Warwick Memorial United Methodist Church and were **shown Warwick's new Celebration Center** which was a \$3.5 M addition to their church including a high school size basketball/volley ball court, a new, large kitchen, an entry hall and a couple of offices. Dave Munro, the Ministry Coordinator was very helpful and said they would be glad to talk with us any time regarding things they have learned during their building process.
4. The Building Committee is scheduled to meet at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 18 to **discuss in detail the initial drawings presented by Myler**. Several modifications will be recommended to the current drawings. Following this meeting, we will work with members of the staff and the ministry areas to get their inputs on these drawings, as well as the Church Council members. Upon completion of this review, we will forward our proposed changes to Myler and get the next version of the church drawings.
5. 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. Blair added that all are encouraged to attend these meetings and that PDF versions of the building plans can be e-mailed upon request.

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

1. **Acolyte Recognition** was held on Sunday, June 3; 29 acolytes were recognized during the worship services; each received a certificate, "SLUMC Acolyte" pencil along with a goodie bag at the pizza party following the 11 a.m. service.
2. **Homebound Communion Outreach Ministry** celebration was a fun time; a dedication service for the communion servers will be held in September.
3. People are encouraged to "try out" the prayer ministry which meets each Sunday at 11 a.m. to pray for those hurting and in need.
4. **Altar Flower Ministry** policy:
  - a) Unless it's a church holiday, the people signing up have priority in the placement of flowers.
  - b) The sign-up sheet has been revised for the last half of this year to reflect two arrangements per Sunday. If there is a third arrangement, it will be placed in the narthex.

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

1. **Christian Yoga** – The summer evening class (June 26-August 14) received a great response. A new daytime class of 10 sessions is tentatively scheduled for Thursday mornings beginning in September.
2. **SL8 Fellowship Groups** – A closing activity is being planned for the current groups. New groups will form in September.

3. **College Students** – A Summer Social will be held in late July/ early August.
4. **Red Cross Blood Drive** – Tuesday, August 7 from 3:30-7:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.
5. **Women’s Retreat** – October 13-14 at the Roslyn Retreat Center in Richmond.
6. **Sunday Fellowship Minute** – Recruitment is underway for set-up, hosting and clean-up for the remainder of the summer. No long-term commitment is required as this is on a Sunday-to-Sunday basis. Thanks to the folks who have signed up to help!
7. **First Aid Kits** – Replenished in June; will be restocked on a regular schedule. Please note that there is a large, metal First Aid Kit on the floor in the parlor closet. Everyone who uses this closet can help to insure visibility of the kit and access to it by taking care not to place items in front of it. Possibilities of relocating the kit or mounting it to the wall was discussed.
8. **Attendance/Pew Pads** – Please help the attendance recorders by entering the name of each person in your family/group for Sunday morning worship. The information is important for connectivity and congregational care, so pass the word and encourage this.
9. **Request for Info for Church Data Base** – If you are a coordinator of one of the many church “groups” belonging to SLUMC (*such as Martha’s Ministry, Christian Yoga classes, Altar Guild, etc.*), please submit lists of members in your group to Betty Brummer via her home e-mail address ([bettybrummer@juno.com](mailto:bettybrummer@juno.com)) or the St. Luke’s Travelers box in the church office.

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

1. **No report**, the committee will meet next week.

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

1. After a brief training session, **a small group from St. Luke’s went into the Willow Lakes neighborhood** on June 2 to invite residents to visit St. Luke’s. About 200 information packets were distributed. **A larger visitation of the Grafton area is planned for Saturday, September 8 at 2:30.** The group will meet at church, have a training session, go out into the area, 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** is taking place on Tuesday mornings in the church library. Seventeen children are registered. Average attendance (including caregivers) has been about 20. Most of these are not members of the church.
3. Sign-up is underway for the **Reading Tutoring program** at Grafton Bethel.
4. The next **Newcomer’s Seminar** will be Sunday, July 15. Ministry area representatives will again be given the opportunity to speak about areas where newcomers can “plug in” to our congregation. Those representatives should arrive around 5 pm and plan to stay and visit over dinner, if possible. Let Joyce know if you can stay for dinner.
5. More **workers are needed** for the Hospitality Center, especially at the 9:45 service.
6. 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.

**Treasurer** (Chuck Harris)

1. **Electronic copies of the June financial report** have been distributed to members of the Council by e-mail.
2. On page 8 of the financial report, you can see that **disbursements have crept up slightly greater than contributions.** We had been running pretty much even all year with income matching disbursements within some small margin. Last month we had a couple of fairly large expenses, such that we disbursed more than we took in. Being summer time is, of course, one factor—contributions often slide a little in the summer.

Historically, contributions pick up considerably toward the end of the year and I expect would us to even out and probably come out a little bit ahead by the end of the year unless we come up with some extra unexpected expenses.

3. One page 11, I am still waiting to hear **where to send the \$1,090 disaster monies** collected for Enterprise, AL.
4. The **90-day CD at Old Point Bank** matured and it was rolled over into another 90-day CD (see bottom, page 9)
5. Based on the comments I have received, I am going to instruct Smith Barney to invest **the \$35K proceeds from the GMAC Bank CD** which matures on July 12 in the Government Portfolio Money Market. There remains some uncertainty about when monies will be needed for the building fund and the difference in interest between the money market and another CD is just a couple of tenths of a point. We can make any adjustments later that the finance committee deems proper.

### Finance Ministry (Sam Motley)

1. The Finance Committee last met on May 8, 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) The **call for budget (or financial planning)** information will begin in July. Sam requested that responses be received via e-mail by mid-August.
  - c) **Other topics discussed** included the need to establish an Audit Committee, the potential need for more detailed financial operating procedures, and upcoming investment maturity dates.
2. The **committee agreed not to meet in June** due to conflicts with the VAUMC Annual Conference. However, Chuck Harris provided a financial update to the committee members via e-mail.

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

1. The members discussed the computer maintenance quotes received and **recommended proceeding with ProActivIT** to cover the network and eight primary workstations. Over the past several years, the staff usage and reliance on the computers and network has increased to a level that warrants professional servicing for efficiency and maintenance. The time and expertise required to provide appropriate support exceeds staff and volunteer capabilities and the consequences of failing to provide it could be disastrous.
2. We discussed the quote by Audio Ethics, Inc., to **replace our sanctuary audio mixer, amplifier, and recorder equipment** (expanding to include cassette and CD). The new digital equipment will fit in the existing racks and will allow us to have independent mixes sent to the main system, radio broadcast, and the recorder. The sound quality will be improved and easily changed for each of the outputs, resulting in an excellent quality "product" for each. The present sub-mixer by the piano will also be replaced, eliminating an intermittent problem and making it easier to use altar-level CD or cassette players (e.g., for children's choirs). The overall operation will be set up for several different scenarios so that with the literal push of an electronic button, the settings will be changed to tune the system to provide the appropriate equalization levels, etc., for high quality sound within the sanctuary, to the radio, and to the recorder. This changeover will enable us to easily modify the sound settings to best communicate our message to those within the sanctuary, listening to the radio at home, or later playing of a cassette, CD, or digital (MP3) file of the service. The members agreed that delaying several items budgeted for multimedia equipment (#384) for this year was appropriate in order to fund this

changeover. If the delayed items need to be purchased this year, the Council will be addressed for additional funding.

3. **Initial 2008 Budget ideas were entertained.** We felt that more formal coordination with other ministry areas, e.g., Worship and Education, would be beneficial. We may suggest adding a cumulative line item for audio/visual/lighting for future upgrades and new functions that may be desired, especially for any new construction, so that could be kept separate from any mortgage-type funding because such equipment would technologically be outdated well before it was paid off using a 30 year mortgage, for instance. Members will give more thought to the 2008 Budget and will send Megan input for distribution to all prior to our next meeting.
4. The **next meeting will be held on Monday, August 27**, at 7 p.m., one week ahead of schedule because it was originally scheduled for Labor Day.

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

1. **Inspected the parsonage** with the Chair of SPRC on May 21, 2007. We identified 13 items that need repair or resolution. We plan to do repairs and resolve any other issues over the next couple of months.
2. Liz Tragle acquired **four new trees for church grounds**. We planted them and they are looking good. Also, thanks to Liz, the courtyard looks like a show place.
3. We are still working on roof-leak problems. With any luck, Joel's recent attempt at eliminating the leaks will work.
4. We will **update the emergency evacuation plan** when the new expansion is complete.
5. The **Eagle Scout fire pit project** has been approved and will be started in the near future.
6. We addressed the **parking-on-the-grass issue** in the monthly newsletter. If this doesn't work, we will use no parking signs.
7. We are having a **problem with folks breaking into thermostat covers** and adjusting the air conditioner. We will address that problem in the next newsletter.
8. Diana Donnelly and I decided to **hold off on the swing set problem** for the pre-school playground. We are not sure if:
  - c) The current playground will still exist after construction.
  - d) A new playground will be similar in size and shape.
  - e) The new playground will have access for mulching, installing new equipment, etc.
  - f) The new playground will meet preschool accreditation requirements. The preschool is vitally important to our church's life. Our youth program starts with those young Christian hearts and minds.

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

#### ***Youth:***

1. We have two **new Co-Chairs of Youth Council** beginning August 1, 2007. They are Justin Torres (Senior in the Fall) and Katelyn Cianelli (Junior in Fall.)
2. The **Gong Show was a big success**. We had a great dinner and fun fellowship. We had 10 great acts...lots and lots of talent and fun. Thanks for coming out and joining us for the evening. Donations of \$672 went to the Youth 2007 SPLAT trip account.
3. **All spots are filled for this month's SPLAT conference**. Our summer intern, Meghan Roth, will be joining us.
4. We **will begin weekly summer time activities on Thursday's** the third week of July for six weeks. We did this last summer and had a good response. Each week we do a different activity (e.g., beach, bowling, Tides game, etc.) This activity does not replace Sunday Nights...those will continue as usual though we will have high school and middle school meeting together for the summer.

## 5. Calendar Items:

- a) **Summer hours:** Beginning July 1 Sunday Fellowship of Clay all grades meet 5:00-7:30 p.m.
- b) **July 11-15** – SPLAT (Youth 2007) in Greensboro NC
- c) **Thursday, July 19** – Picnic at Newport News Park 12:00-4:00 p.m.
- d) **Thursday, July 26** – Peninsula Pilots game/Movie night if game rained out
- e) **Thursday, August 2** – Pool Night at Windy Point pool 9:00-11:00 p.m.
- f) **Thursday, August 9** – Yorktown Beach 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- g) **Thursday, August 16** – Miniature Golf (late night if possible)
- h) **Thursday, August 23** – Yorktown Beach 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

### Service Ministry (Joe Posey and Joe Vallow)

1. **No Report**, did not meet in June.
2. **Asp Final Report** (Joe Vallow)

*The St. Luke's UMC ASP team enjoyed a great trip to Bluefield, Mercer County West Virginia. This was the 16<sup>th</sup> annual ASP trip for St. Luke's UMC. The team of 71 consisted of 43 high school age youth, 6 college age, and 22 adults. This was our biggest traveling team ever. We departed on Saturday June 23 and returned on Saturday June 30. A good crowd of family and friends was present to see us depart and return. We received generous support this year from the congregation and family at St. Luke's. The Kiwanis BBQ was our big fundraiser this year, and we are very appreciative of their support.*

*Saturday evening the team spent the night at Emory and Henry College in Emory, VA. Sunday morning we traveled to Bluefield and attended services at a local church-John Stewart United Methodist. The church made us feel welcome to their service. We stayed in the Bluefield Salvation Army building which was spacious and comfortable, and the weather was cool enough that the lack of air-conditioning was not a problem. Everyone slept in the gym.*

*It was a great trip this year. The ASP staff consisted of 5 college students. They were a good group and very supportive of the volunteers. ASP had hired two great cooks to prepare the breakfast and dinner for the volunteers, and they did a fine job. . There were no serious bouts of sickness this year, no broken bones or sprains, and nothing more serious than cuts, splinters, and scratches. All 22 of the vehicles made the trip to and from Mercer County with no breakdowns or other problems.*

*Mercer county ASP homes presented the usual sorts of opportunities to the volunteers. We worked to repair roofs, replace rotted floors, hang drywall, and repair plumbing. All of our teams enjoyed the time spent with their ASP families. At the Friday evening gathering, there were few dry eyes as the volunteers reflected on their experiences during the week. God's hand is in this work. Many volunteers and many families who were helped had their faith strengthened during the week.*

*Keith Bird did an excellent job of providing the overall coordination for the mission trip this year. Many thanks to all in the congregation and in the Grafton community who has helped support this ministry. We were very appreciative that Pastor Clara Gestwick accompanied the ASP team this year. At her suggestion, the ASP team made participated in all three services on Sunday, July 1.*

### Lay Delegates to the Virginia Conference (Suzi Smith and Betty Brummer)

#### **Annual Conference Report**

*Suzi Smith and Betty Brummer had the pleasure of representing St. Luke's Church as the Lay Delegates to the 225<sup>th</sup> Virginia Annual Conference held at the Civic Center in Roanoke, Virginia on June 10 – 14, 2007. More than 3,000 laity and clergy were present.*

*The Theme for the conference was "Let's Get Growing-All for Jesus." Focus for the year is on "Making Disciples that Transform the World." We were challenged to "go outside" with our invitation to find "more people, more young people, and more diverse people."*

*The Conference opened with "A Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion." Monday evening dozens of men and women made their commitment to a life of ministry at "The Ordering of Service." This conference was power packed from the beginning with a sermon by one of our Native American pastors and previous editor of the Advocate, Larry Jent, who entertained us with singing and humor as he encouraged us to remember and honor our elders. Our conference message was brought by a South African preacher who began a series of talks encouraging us to "listen to the groans" of the world and completed his message with a hopeful one of New Creation, New Celebration, New Commission and New Commitment.*

*Reports from the various Ministry Areas and Committees were presented throughout the conference. There were five proposed Resolutions submitted that were voted on. Resolutions #1 thru #4 failed and Resolution #5 passed.*

*It took the Laity 14 ballots to elect 15 Lay delegates from the 200 candidates to represent the Virginia Conference at the General Conference and 15 delegates to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference. The Clergy had to elect the same number to both Conferences from their membership. The Clergy had to vote a few more times than the Laity.*

*We heard two powerful topics through out the 4 days: Our Wesley Heritage and Diversity. The 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of Charles Wesley traditions was beautifully captured in a narrated program full of the history of the brothers Charles and John punctuated with the amazing wealth of songs written by Charles, many familiar and a few new ones.*

*Dr. Weens, Director Lewis Center for Church Leadership stated that Virginia is one of the fastest-growing states in terms of population. By the year 2030 Virginia is projected to grow more than 25% and the median age projected will be under 38.*

*Are we ready to step out of our comfort zone and reach out and invite those who are different than we are by exploring different ways and places to worship? Are we happy with the number of young and diverse people we are seeing in church every Sunday? If not, what are we willing to try in order to encourage someone new to come and worship with us regularly?*

*The Virginia Conference plans to establish 250 new missional communities of faith in the next 30 years. We will be challenged to keep the motto of the United Methodist Church of "Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors."*

*The most amazing and fun thing that happened was a totally spontaneous act of generous giving by this group of over 3,000 members. After seeing a short video on the "Nothing but Nets" effort which provides mosquito nets to African countries to prevent malaria, the conference laity and clergy began challenging one another to give to this anti-malaria program and ended up by collecting over \$103 thousand, much of it in cash right there on the spot, and some in pledges. The Bill Gates Foundation will match this amount. We made a difference that night!!!*

*In addition, the conference packed over 20 tons of potatoes for the Potato Project and 36,675 Kits for Conference with an additional monetary donation of \$49,983.*

*So if you want to get charged up and renewed by great preaching, and learn a little more about the United Methodist Church, the Annual Conference is a great way to do it!*

*It was a fun filled 4 days getting to know new people and reconnecting with some old friends and pastors.*

*The best news was of course saved for the end and we learned that the Gestwicks and James Pace are returning.*

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

1. James Pace presented a brief video of a typical day at **Galilee By-the-Sea Vacation Bible School** which is only two weeks away. Volunteers are needed to help set up the Marketplace on Sunday, July 23 following the 11:00 service. The Opening Celebration will take place at 6:30 p.m. with watermelon on the front lawn. We still need a few tribal leaders and drama people.
2. **Helping Hands**, a hands-on mission experience for 5<sup>th</sup> graders, will take place on Thursday and Friday during VBS. There will be nine children participating in this overnight stay in Richmond. Becky Slaydon will attend as an adult chaperone. We still need one male chaperone to attend.

### **Associate Pastor** (Clara Gestwick)

1. Beginning this month, I will be the clergy representative who attends **Outreach** (taking the place of Doug). I have an interest in evangelism and want to get more involved with our program here. Doug felt it would be a good area for my position.
2. I was blessed to be a part of the **ASP** program this summer. Our Sunday celebration was well received and a great way to end our mission trip.

### **Senior Pastor** (Doug Gestwick)

1. Our Calling 21 intern, **Meghan Roth**, did a fantastic job on Sunday. I was very proud of her and feel that the ministry is exactly where she should be.
2. The **Nothing But Nets** project donations has reached \$8,540 to date and donations are still coming in.
3. There are now 32 people signed up to make the **trip to the Holy Land** and spaces are still available. Friends and family may be invited to go along.
4. Please **keep in your prayers** Clara and the children attending Camp Overlook and Paul Lapointe and other adult leaders and the youth attending SPLAT.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Ed Brummer was present** to give updates on current communications projects and to announce he would be retiring as the church communications guru. Ed plans to follow through with providing the “borrowed” sound system for the preschool story hour and, along with Grady Koch respond to a request made by the offering counters to have a speaker in the work room to hear the Sunday service. Ron Dorenbush thanked Ed for his many years of dedication and service which was followed by a round of applause from Church Council members.
2. The United Methodist Church is active in a **Green Church Initiative** and has challenged St. Luke’s to participate. Joe Posey volunteered to lead this ministry.
3. **Next Church Council meeting:** Tuesday, August 14, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.
4. **August Devotions:** Sam Motley
5. **August Refreshments:** Brenda Ramsey

### **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*