

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE
MINUTES

November 3, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by District Superintendent, Myrtle Frances Hatcher. There were 32 in attendance. Myrtle welcomed everyone and explained that this year's theme "*Radical Hospitality*" is about welcoming people that are different.

DEVOTION

Myrtle Frances Hatcher shared a devotion about the woman at the well with several others reading scripture. Under the circumstances this was a person most people did not talk to and they most likely expected Jesus not to talk with her either. Jesus did talk with her and this story reminds us all of what "Radical Hospitality" is about. Myrtle closed with prayer.

ELECTION OF SECRETARY

Senior Pastor, Doug Gestwick nominated Debbie Fullhart to be secretary for the meeting with **unanimous approval**.

RADICAL HOSPITALITY DISCUSSION

1. **Successful practices in the church utilizing radical hospitality**
 - a) Ginny Potts of the Outreach Ministry shared that the Open House Carnival was a huge success with an estimated attendance of 300-400 consisting of both members, regular visitors and some new faces too.
 - b) Suzie Smith of Refugee/Immigration Services shared that a plea was made to the congregation in Sunday worship that there was an immediate need to provide transportation that Monday morning for 30 people that would be hired to work in Smithfield. A 7 passenger van was donated by Ken and Esther Barnes.
 - c) Members of the Outreach Committee shared that the process for welcoming visitors during Sunday worship services has changed. Rather than calling attention to visitors by asking them to raise their hands and giving them bread, they are now invited to fill out a card and visit the Hospitality Center in the Narthex. This has resulted in a larger turn out which allows the Shepherding Program to work much better.
2. **New practices for 2010**
 - a) The on-line welcoming training classes taken by Outreach Ministry members recommended having "parking lot greeters" to direct visitors to the appropriate doors. This is under consideration due to the number of entrances at St. Luke's
3. **Practices that were not effective**
 - a) Recognizing visitors in Sunday worship by asking them to raise their hands and therefore the practice was changed as described above
4. **District support that can help promote radical hospitality**
 - a) Another visit from District Superintendent Myrtle Frances Hatcher during the Easter Egg Project. She came to visit and work at last year's event and people were very excited to meet her.

APPROVED: December 8, 2009

ACTION ITEMS / REPORTS FROM CHARGE CONFERENCE AGENDA

1. **Adoption of the slate of Lay Leadership was APPROVED.**
2. **Theresa Butler, Anthony Budzik, and Martha Davis were received as Certified Candidacy for Ordained Ministry. Those in attendance laid hands as Pastor Clara prayed for each candidate.**
3. **Adoption of the 2010 budget as presented in the report was APPROVED.**
4. **Clergy Compensation for 2010 was APPROVED with the correction of the Senior Pastor Housing allowance to \$15,000.**
5. **Year-end Ministry, Historical and Statistical reports were provided as information.**

REPORTS

1. **Judicial Council**
 - a) Pastor Doug reported that the Judicial Council declared that it did not have jurisdiction on the matter due to the way the questions were presented from the floor at VA Conference. So it's back to the drawing board to determine how best to ask the questions in a more specific way.
 - b) Myrtle Frances Hatcher thanked Doug for his work at conference as well as the work at such a large church as St. Luke's.
2. **Finance Committee**
 - a) Bo Walkley reported that the Finance Committee process has become much smoother since hiring Business Manager, Bill Boyer.
 - b) There is currently \$700,000 in savings for the building program.
 - c) The 2010 budget is \$1,011,461.00 and was approved at the October Church Council meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. In addition to focusing on the **Five Practices of a Fruitful Congregation** in worship, Sunday School classes were asked to study the book and Ministry area leaders were asked to get committees involved to determine these practices apply to their specific ministries.
2. **Pastor Doug lifted up the Board of Trustees** and that they are not waiting for the building program. They have been painting, refinishing floors, purchasing new chairs and more making our church building beautiful and welcoming. Thank you to chair, Tom Sayre and the entire board for their hard work.
3. **Tom Lyon invited Myrtle Frances Hatcher** and district members to St. Luke's Drive-Through Nativity.
4. Myrtle Frances Hatcher provided a hand-out with the **"Marks of Radical Hospitality"** in which she challenged us to think of how people will use their senses when looking for a church home and to consider the following:
 - a) At what distance from your church will a visitor see the *first* sign of welcome?
 - b) What sounds of comfort and welcome will a visitor experience in the church?
 - c) What smells are noticeable in the church and what do these smells say about the activities happening in the church?
 - d) How will a guest first make physical contact in the church?
 - e) What tastes are offered to guests as part of their worship/fellowship experience?

DISTRICT EVENTS

1. Myrtle Frances Hatcher highlighted a few upcoming district training opportunities.
 - a) Staff Parish Training – Saturday, November 14, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Chestnut Memorial UMC. Entire committees, not just leaders are encouraged to attend. Registration is required.
 - b) Peninsula District Stewardship Education Workshop – Saturday, November 21, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Bethany UMC. Workshop focus is how to raise money in the church during these difficult times.
 - c) Leadership Training – Saturday, January 9. Training will be based on the Five Practices.
 - d) A Day of Radical Hospitality – Saturday, January 30 at 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Williamsburg UMC. Dr. Amy Oden, Dean at Wesley Theological Seminary will present a program that will help congregations welcome in the same way God welcomes.

CLOSING

1. Myrtle Frances Hatcher thanked everyone for their good works of discipleship and stewardship.
2. Anthony Budzik closed with prayer.
3. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by Debbie Fullhart, Church Council Secretary