

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

February 9, 2010

7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. There were 20 members present.

HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS

1. Members were asked to **sign in on the Attendance Roster and verify e-mail addresses and sign up to lead devotions or provide refreshments.**
2. **Eric Cooper was elected as the Vice-Chairman of the Church Council by UNANIMOUS VOTE.**
3. **Next Church Council meeting:** Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.
Devotions: Ken Engebretson
Refreshments: Suzie Small

VISION CASTING BY THE PASTORS

Pastor Doug used the Vision part of the agenda to present two topics for Church Council consideration and subsequent votes.

1. He presented a **Draft Letter to be sent out to the entire congregation** addressing the top questions/answers gleaned from the Focus Sessions. The intent is to make sure every member of the congregation is well versed in the Building Campaign Voting process and way ahead after the Feb 21 vote. He proposed having the Building Committee Chair, Church Council Chair and Senior Pastor sign the letter. After considerable discussion and modifications, a motion was made/second to approve the letter and authorize the signatures.

Motion was unanimously APPROVED

2. Pastor Doug also had drafted up the **procedures to be used for the conduct of the Feb 21 Church Conference vote.** After a comprehensive review and discussion, a motion/second was made to approve the procedures with suggested modifications.

Motion was unanimously APPROVED

APPROVED: April 13, 2010

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes for **December 8, 2009** meeting were **APPROVED** as submitted.

ITEMS REQUIRING DISCUSSION FOR ACTION / APPROVAL

1. **Motion from Service Ministry:** Our Services & Missions Committee met last week and decided to keep the congregation informed of how to give to the Haiti Emergency Relief. We received a request from Rev Gesner Paul, President Eglise Methodiste d'Haiti to continue to send Health Kits and donations through UMCOR until notified further notice. Therefore, the committee request the following notice in the Sunday Bulletin and monthly Newsletter until it is determined we no longer need to publize "the call for help".

Extravagant Generosity – Helping Haiti Earthquake Recovery – If you are interested in making a donation to the Haiti Earthquake Recovery there are two ways you may help. (1) Donations to Untied Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR, can be made by writing a check to Saint Luke's. Please put "*UMCOR Haiti Emergency Advance #418325*" in the memo line. (2) Make a donation for Health Kits for Haiti. You may donate a Health Kit or write a check to SLUMC with "Health Kits for Haiti" in the memo line. Each kit cost approximately \$10.00. Please place checks in the offering plate.

- a) **Motion was modified to allow Communications Coordinator, Megan Collins the latitude to tailor the actual write-up used in bulletins and newsletters based on space available.**

Motion was unanimously APPROVED

2. **Motion from Service Ministry:** Request approval to host event on Sunday, March 21 at 6:00 p.m. in which visiting missionaries Teca and Gordon Greathouse and the St. Luke's 2009 Brazil mission team will present "A Taste of Brazil". Brazilian missionary, Teca Greathouse will present a program about the Shade and Fresh Water Project in the Amazon and Brazilian missions. The event will be followed by a Brazilian dinner with donations collected to benefit their missions and ministries.

Motion was unanimously APPROVED

REPORTS / ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Service Ministry (Kathryn Budzik and Linda Rody)

1. **Haiti Relief** – St. Luke's put together *350 Health Kits* for before the end of January and sent \$9,000 in donations. Praise be to God!
2. **Volunteers in Mission** – Ron Dorenbush will sponsor a Spring Break trip to Mississippi and plans a May and August trip if possible.
3. **ASP-FOGG Fall 2010 Trip** – February 21-27 at year-round Guyan Valley Center in Brenton, West Virginia. If interested in participating contact Joe Vallow at 898-3912 or vallow@cox.net.
4. **Easter Egg Project Funds** – Continue to support a family in need and one new application is being reviewed.
5. **Meeting time set** – The committee will meet on the first Tuesday every other month before the Church Council meeting.
6. **Good Samaritan Fund** – Many requests continue each week with Mike Mellen and Margaret Mason administering the requests.

Board of Trustees (Tom Sayre)

1. In accordance with the book of discipline, the Board of Trustees is required to inform the church council of approved changes in church property use. Senior Pastor Doug approved the use of church facilities for students with disabilities to do prevocational training. The Board of Trustees recommended that Pastor Doug approve the request from Gayle Stortz, Transition Resource Teacher, York County Schools to use church facilities for that purpose.

Outreach Ministry (Ginny Potts and Mary Ellis)

1. We discussed having a **“Mystery Guest”** come to the church and evaluate how welcoming is St. Luke’s. To get the best response we want someone who has not been to our church.
2. We also talked about finding volunteers to be **parking lot greeters**. We are going to start with an announcement in the bulletin, newsletter and blurbs.
3. It was suggested that we look into expanding out **Reading Tutoring Ministry** to other elementary school(s), possibly Yorktown Elementary.
4. We will be holding a **training meeting for the Hospitality volunteers**. We have a few time spots that are empty and will be announcing the need for more volunteers and substitutes. We discussed the importance of having the volunteers overlapping their arrival with the departure of the next volunteer to the hospitality center.
5. We are looking into **whether or not we will run a TV ad for Lent** and if so selecting the most appropriate one.
6. **Keri Houser has volunteered to be the Hospitality Volunteer Trainer.**
7. **Our next meeting** will be March 1 at 4:00 p.m.

Worship Ministry (Kamela Verry and TBN)

1. **Christmas Eve services** went very well this year. We had a large increase in our 11:00 p.m. service. The following is the attendance broken down by each service:
5:00 p.m. - 308 7:00 p.m. - 345 9:00 p.m. - 308 11:00 p.m. - 315
For a grand total of **1,276 worshipers for Christmas Eve!**
2. The **“Christmas Miracle” Offering** brought in more than \$50,000 for the Good Samaritan Fund during the Christmas Eve services.
3. **Baptismal linens** to be embroidered and given as gifts to all baptized in the church starting in January of 2010.
4. Joe Posey suggested **using church van to give rides to church** for our home-bound members.
5. **Upcoming Dates:**
 - a) February 14, 2010 - Scout Sunday
 - b) February 17, 2010 - Ash Wednesday
 - c) February 21, 2010 - Church Conference/Vote Sunday

Communications Ministry (Ken Engebretson and Aaron McMichael)

1. **Communication Deadlines:**
 - Sunday Bulletin—Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.
 - Sunday School Blurbs—Friday at noon
 - Newsletter—15th of each month

Youth Ministry (Nate DeHart)

1. **January was a month of many unexpected schedule changes** as the High School Lock-in was rescheduled, the Ski Trip had to be cancelled because school days changed and Winter Jam was also rescheduled due to weather.
2. The **Youth Worship Band** has begun weekly practices on Wednesday evenings and will be playing for both MS and HS youth regularly on Sunday evenings.
3. **Wednesday Night Bible Study's** are now focused primarily on Middle School and "**5th Quarter**" is now a regular Friday night meeting for High School.
4. There is a **Singles Awareness Day** party February 12.
5. We will have the annual **Pancake Dinner** fundraiser on February 16 (Shrove Tuesday).
6. I will begin my first class for **Certification in Youth Ministry** this month through Wesley Seminary. (February 19-20)
7. The **High School Lock-In** will be February. 26-27.
8. **Winter Jam** will now occur March 3.
9. The **Seniors OBX retreat** will be March 5-7.

Military Ministry (Pete Prindle)

A Call to Prayer and Ministry for Military Families

Whereas the 2008 General Conference of the United Methodist Church reflected upon Resolution 268, which states that "the General Conference honors, supports, and upholds in prayer those men and women who serve in our armed services and, in addition, honors and supports those United Methodist clergy who serve as chaplains," and;

Whereas the 2008 General Conference then added these words:

"Be it further resolved, that the Church commits itself to extend its pastoral ministry to members of the armed forces and their families during their time of service and after their return, and

Be it further resolved, that we call upon our churches to extend a welcome home to persons who return from service in the armed forces, to respect their stories and interpretations of their experiences, and to value and encourage expression of their potential contributions to the ministry of our churches, and

Be it further resolved that we call upon our churches and members to pray for persons serving in the armed forces and their families, to pray for persons whom circumstances have caused us to relate to as enemies, to pray for other persons for whom war has caused suffering, and to pray for peace:"

Whereas the suffering of military personnel and their families is desperate: 67% of military marriages require counseling; 49% of returning veterans report symptoms of combat trauma; suicides are at all time highs; 33% of children with a deployed parent suffer psychologically; and horrific combat injuries, although often survivable, require extensive rehabilitation and major life style changes;

Whereas the troop surge in Afghanistan will exacerbate these alarming trends among military families, and demand a supporting surge in our prayers;

Whereas many military families find their spiritual support in local United Methodist churches, particularly National Guard and Reserve personnel not located near a military chaplain, making the local church best positioned to minister to the growing needs of military families, and

Whereas the stated purpose of the Virginia Conference is to “make disciples for Jesus Christ by equipping local churches for ministry and providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God,” a purpose in which military families play a unique role, in that they move every two to three years and thus provide a vital connection for ministry beyond their home church,

Be it resolved that the Virginia Conference:

1. Commits to implementing Resolution 268, as amended, throughout the conference.
2. Calls for prayer to sustain military families as they sacrifice on our behalf in both the current and future conflicts. This might include incorporating prayer for military families in weekly services, publicizing prayer-for-the military activities both in church publications and from the pulpit, and participating in National Day of Prayer activities.
3. Suggests that churches with military members establish a Military Ministry. Such ministries can help prepare military families spiritually for the challenges of deployment, support them as they serve to protect our freedoms, and help them heal the wounds of combat trauma upon their return.
4. Encourages recognition for military families on such occasions as Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, and Veterans Day, with services of blessing and welcome for deploying and returning troops.
5. Proposes periodic designated offerings to support the United Methodist Endorsing Agency (UMEA) in such ministries as phone cards for deployed troops, which help UMC chaplains cope with the needs of military families.
6. Seeks partnerships with other military ministry entities such as churches, military chaplains, and para-church military ministries for mutual benefit and encouragement.
7. Authorizes the Director of Director of Leadership and Inclusivity to facilitate this call to prayer by sharing information about Military Ministry efforts within the conference, and bringing a progress report to the 2011 Annual Conference.
8. Submits this call to prayer and ministry for military families to the 2012 General Conference as a petition from the Virginia Conference

Education Ministry (Eric Cooper and Liz Rowe)

1. Lenten Activities

- a) Making Crosses Workshop and Pancake Dinner – On Shrove Tuesday, February 16, we will be holding a Making Crosses Workshop in conjunction with the pancake dinner; both to be held in the fellowship hall.
- b) Lenten Luncheons – will be held each Thursday during Lent (Feb 25, Mar 4, 11, 18, and 25) with devotions based on “Picturing the Face of Jesus: Encountering Christ through Art” by Beth Booram. The luncheons will be coordinated by Mary Ellis and Kenna Rusk. Attendance in years past has been around 20 to 25.
- c) Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services – will again be led by our confirmands.

- d) Stations of the Cross – Icon display will be available for viewing in the Narthex from 9AM – 6PM during Holy Week.
2. **February Mystery Dinner and Movie Night** – On February 27 we will be holding a mystery dinner and movie night starting at 5:00. This is a family event and will feature the movie “Mary Poppins”.
3. **Vacation Bible School Website** – Last year’s VBS contact information is currently being loaded into our 2010 VBS website which we anticipate being available for registration (attendees and volunteers) around February 12.
4. **Some Key Summer dates:**
 - Camp Overlook: June 20-25 (Nate)
 - Camp Overlook: July 4-9 (Clara)
 - Vacation Bible School: July 19-23
 - Mission, Mayhem and Me (Older Elementary / Jr. High): Aug 6-7

Financial Report (Bill Boyer, Business Manager)

1. **Financial Report through the end of January was provided as information.**

Building Ministry (Blair Ellis)

1. The **Building Committee (BC)** has been busy since the December meeting in preparation for the Focus Group Meetings/Feasibility Studies for the building campaign. Working closely with the pastors and the staff, we have provided BC updates to the church website, the monthly newsletter, a letter from the Senior Pastor to all members, and have scheduled, prepared, and executed presentations to church laity since January 17, 2010.
2. The **Klote-led Focus Group meetings/Feasibility Study** started as scheduled on the January 11, 2010 with the arrival of Glendon Smith, our Klote consultant. We have provided presentations every Sunday after each church service and will finish next Sunday on the February 14. Additionally, we have made presentations after the church dinners on Wednesday evenings and to the church youth, and we have met every Thursday evening since 17 January to review our progress on the presentations.
3. On Thursday, 4 February, the BC **presented to the District Building Committee St. Luke’s preliminary building plan and preliminary financial plan.** Five members of the District attended this meeting and following the presentation, stated that they appreciated the level of detail that we provided and gave approval for St. Luke’s to move forward with our vote, Capital Campaign, and continuing planning. Our next meeting with the District Committee will be prior to signing any contract committing St. Luke’s to our building plan. The district representatives reminded us to ensure that we talked with our building insurance representative, and of the importance of asking questions about our security system and about our plan for fire suppression, both in the new and old parts of our building.
4. As of Sunday, February 7, 2010 we have **presented the *Growing to Serve* vision** to approximately 262 St. Luke’s laity who have attended the Focus Group Meetings. We hope to get close to 300 by the end of our three presentations on Sunday, 14 February.
5. A **preliminary church-wide vote on our *Growing to Serve* vision will be conducted on 21 February** following a single worship service at 9:30 AM. The vote will be held in accordance with the Book of Discipline. If the majority of those St. Luke’s members present for this vote confirm that they want our church to move forward with the current plan, we will move immediately into a Capital Campaign which will last approximately 3-4 months.

Nurture Ministry (Della Shelton and Betty Brummer)

1. The Nurture Ministry held a meeting on January 18. The **next meeting** is scheduled for March 15 at 7 p.m.
2. **We will now meet bi-monthly** on the third Monday night at 7 p.m.
3. **College Care Packages** – Care packages will be in the narthex on Sunday, March 14 for spring care packages. The next time we will see them is Sunday, October 24 for fall care packages. *(POC – Elise Seay)*
4. **Wednesday Night Suppers** – Wednesday suppers have been going well, averaging about 75 attendees each week. The last supper before Easter will be February 10. They will resume again April 14 and continue through May 26 before breaking for the summer. Shoppers are needed – let us know if anyone is willing to help. *(POCs – Karen Kern, Michelle Hurst, Donna Dorenbush)*
5. **Travelers** – There is a trip planned to see the musical Joseph at the Sight & Sound Millennium Theatre in Lancaster, PA. The group will depart on April 14 and return on the 15. The cost is \$137 per person double occupancy and \$274 per people. Reservations must be made prior to March 1. Info is on the small bulletin board outside of Megan's office. Applications and an info sheet are in the Traveler's mail box in the church office. They will use the church bus, so seating is limited. *(POC – Betty Brummer)*
6. **Women's Retreats** – Blessings Lodge is reserved for October 8-10. A Day Retreat is tentatively planned for May 15. The location is TBD. *(POC – Clara Gestwick)*
7. **First Aid** – Three of the first aid boxes are periodically checked and restocked. The one off the narthex is no longer being checked until it is moved to a better location/position. *(POC – Elizabeth Lyon)*
8. **Absentee/Membership Registry** – Pew pad entries are validated against the membership registry weekly. Anyone interested in helping is more than welcome!
9. **Martha's Ministry** – The ministry served several funerals in November and January. They are looking for some new team participants and have placed announcements in the bulletin and newsletter. *(POC – Donna Dorenbush)*
10. **Prayer Shawl** – This ministry continues to meet and is looking for more knitters and crocheters to join the group. An announcement was placed in the bulletin. *(POC – Joan Comeaux)*
11. **Blood Drive** – The next blood drive is being held on February 9 beginning at 3:30 and lasting until 7:30. *(POC – Margie Smith)*
12. **Caring Card Ministry** – An average of 3 or so cards per week are sent to members of the church in need. *(POC – Elizabeth Lyon)*
13. **Shut-in Ministry** – A list of names and locations is nearly finalized for this initiative. More to come. *(POC – Clara Gestwick)*
14. **Homebound Communion** – This ministry just moved under Nurture. Communion is provided on the 1st Sunday of the month or within the 1st week of the month to homebound individuals. *(POC – Betty Brummer)*
15. **February 21 Reception** – The request was made for Nurture to handle a reception after the 9:30 church services at which members will vote on the building plan. Betty Brummer and Joan Comeaux have stepped up to lead this event and are looking for volunteers to help.

United Methodist Women (UMW) (Katy Jones)

1. The **1st Quarterly Meeting on Call to Prayer & Self Denial** will be hosted by Sara Sudduth Circle & Gertrude Carmines Circle on February 9 at 11am in Fellowship Hall. It will be a covered dish lunch.
2. **Mission Baking Bazaar** to benefit Stop Hunger Now will be April 18, 2010.

3. Sisters in Christ is again using the **Lenten Prayer Calendar** to help our members prayerfully focus on the season of lent as well as support the Stop Hunger Now project.
4. Our **roster of Officers and Mission Coordinators** is now full.

Katy Jones	President
Chris Cianelli	Vice-President
Lori Mang	Secretary
Joan Reese	Treasurer
Betty Jane Turner	Spiritual Growth
Suzi Smith	Social Action
Jean Henley	Education & Interpretation
Marian Thome	Membership Nurture & Outreach
Margaret Mason	Secretary of Program Resource

Nominating Committee

Samantha Cowan Donna Dorenbush Diane Robbins Shannon Levister

Director of Discipleship Ministries (DDM) (James Pace)

1. There will be a **“Making Crosses Workshop”** the evening of the Shrove Pancake Supper.
2. This year those attending **VBS will be going to Egypt!** There are only 150 days left so please sign up to attend or volunteer.

ADJOURNMENT

1. Church Council members **lifted up praises and concerns** and the meeting was closed with prayer.
2. The **meeting was adjourned** at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by Tom Lyon, Substitute Secretary