

**ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

October 10, 2006

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."

The October 2006 Church Council meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM. There were thirty members present. Faye Keenan led our devotion centering on Matthew 5:1-12. Jesus' Sermon on the Mount with the beautiful beatitudes led us in centering on our blessings and appreciating the gifts from the Lord.

September Minutes: The minutes were approved as submitted. Comments were discussed on the wording of the pension information in last month's budget discussions. Some of the nature of the retirement plan and coverage are changing in 2007 and the only confusion was wordings and not policy. The Finance Chair, Chair of Staff, Parish Relations and our pastors understand implementation of these changes.

Ron explained that Joel needed to do his report and leave due to pressing home responsibilities tonight.

Trustees – Joel Church

- Church Building –
 - Roof Leaks – Leaks in flat roof area behind sanctuary and in several other areas are being addressed. One roofing contractor has already come out to give us an estimate and another contractor is expected this week. In addition, badly rusted sheet metal associated with the sanctuary heating and air conditioning units may be a leak source. Peninsula Heating and Air has been notified to correct the condition.
 - Annual carpet cleaning and repair complete.
 - Phone installed in nursery is complete.
 - Food Closet Ramp - A ramp will be installed as an Eagle Scout Project at the rear entrance to the sanctuary (food closet storage area).
 - In all light fixtures where the fluorescent bulbs are exposed (kitchen and classrooms in original wing of church), protective sleeves have been installed.
- Castellow Parsonage –
 - Tree Removal – Three oak trees (one with a rotted base close to the home) were cut down and the stumps ground.
- Harwood Parsonage –
 - The Harwood property was listed for sale approximately two weeks ago. The contract was awarded to Wes Wagner (William E. Wood & Associates). The home has been shown to 3 prospects and previewed by one other. A strong advertising campaign is in place to promote the property. Trustees continue to maintain the property and grounds via volunteer help.
- Trustees Next Regular Meeting is Tuesday October 17, 2006 @ 7 PM.

Ron announced the meeting tonight would finish the annual financial plan review and approval process. Time sensitive reports from the ministry areas will also be heard.

OLD BUSINESS – 2007 Financial Plan

Finance Committee – Ron Dorenbush & Bob Dye

- Financial Plan for 2007 is .5 percent lower than 2006 due to elimination of expenses relating to the Harwood Parsonage and desire of the committee to propose a budget that meets the existing needs

of St. Luke's UMC.

- The changes in costs for James Pace result from his ordination as clergy. Staff Parish Relations Chair, Bo Walkley, commented that the change for James Pace from lay employee to clergy employee as of July 1, 2006 results in an increase in 2007. He will go into the Clergy Pension Plan. This was unanimously approved by SPRC. A 7.6% increase for James to cover Social Security will go into effect in 2007. SPRC Report follows:

**JAMES PACE RECOGNITION & SALARY ADJUSTMENT
PROPOSAL from SPRC
October 10, 2006**

OBJECTIVE: To recognize James Pace for his recent ordination and make a one-time salary adjustment based on his new status.

BACKGROUND:

James has been reviewed by the Board of Ordained Ministry and appointed as a "minister of another denomination." This changes his status with SLUMC from a lay employee to a clergy employee effective 7/1/06. This change has several implications:

- a. He is now responsible for the entire Social Security payment (clergy by law are considered "self-employed.")
- b. The church must pay into the pension program at the clergy level and not the lay level (basically 12% of the Denominational Average Compensation rather than 6% if his current salary).
- c. He may designate part of his compensation as a "housing exclusion" (no cost to the church but major tax savings for him).

PROPOSAL:

[1] Maintain the status quo for items "a" and "b" above through the end of 2006.

- Church pays employer portion of Social Security
- Church maintains the 6% payment into the retirement program.
- (Since the retirement plan is changing in 2007 anyway, it will be easier to make all adjustments then, and these are basically a wash to the church.)

[2] On item "c" above we need to determine if we can make the change restoratively at our scheduled Charge Conference, or if we need to call a Charge Conference to establish it.

[3] As a gesture of good-will and in recognition for gaining the ordination status the church sought for his position, SPRC recommends that we make a one time adjustment to James' salary in the amount of 7.65%, effective 1 January 2007. There is no additional cost to the church for this increase, as we are already paying this amount into Social Security for him. Recall that starting in '07 and thereafter, James will be picking up both employee and employer share.

BUDGET UPDATES:

2006 Salary \$ 40,500

Proposed 2007 salary \$ 41,958 (+3.6% increase)

One time 7.65% adjustment for a total 2007 salary: \$ 45,168

****End of James Pace Report****

- Phil Comstock noted that the Fellowship of Christian Athletes budget line item had been dropped. Finance committee cited they thought the funds were not being spent locally and Phil corrected that opinion. Phil further asked for reinstatement of the funding for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes since funds does go locally. This was approved.
- Karen Berardini asked if we were going to have Consecration Sunday in 2007 and the answer is yes.
- Bob Dye moved for approval of the Financial Plan for 2007 and Brad Perry seconded the motion.
- The Financial Plan for 2007 was approved unanimously.
- We will start a Building Fund in 2007 and burn the old mortgage we completely paid off in 2006.
- Pastor Doug would like to see a new vehicle purchased to expand ministries such as the elder

ministry at St. Luke's. Betty Brummer moved to move forward on the evaluation of a 24 passenger van. Deann Posey seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS – Columbarium

Indications from e-mail to Communications Coordinator and phone calls to Chuck Harris indicate that some are for a Columbarium and some are not. Ron thought to process this item, Myler Report on space needs to come first and then decision on what we have for the future master plan. We need to continue to be in prayer on the Columbarium decision.

REPORTS

Building Committee – Blair Ellis

On Thurs, 28 September, the building committee met with Myler and their Corporate Vice President, Tom Walker. Tom has visited the St. Luke's building committee twice and another representative visited with us earlier – so we have met with Myler three times to ensure that we understand what capabilities this company brings to St. Luke's as we plan for our future.

The building committee has interviewed 3 different design/build companies (Myler, Courthouse Construction, and Century Builders). This process has been ongoing about the last year. Based on our discussions and presentations from these 3 design/build companies, we (the building committee) are in strong agreement that contracting with the "right" design/build company is the way to go.

Based on our 28 Sep meeting following discussions, the Building Committee is in agreement that the right company to take St. Luke's to the next step and hopefully to full completion in future of our proposed project is Myler Corporation. "Myler is a recognized leader in the church and religious facilities construction industry. For more than three decades, Myler has worked with over 1,000 churches of nearly every denomination and religious affiliation, providing professional design/build services designed to protect the interests of the Church and its people.

"Myler understands that the success of a church building program isn't found in the dimensions of wood, brick, or stone. It's found in the solid foundation formed by people working together in harmony and unity toward a common purpose. That's why growing churches all across America are using Myler. They are "The Church Building People"."

The Building Committee received a note from Pastor Doug a couple of days ago informing us that:

"Today all clergy in the Virginia Conference received an e-mail from the Conference Office, telling all clergy about the free online forums being held by Myler.

I took this as a confirmation that we made the right decision, as the package of materials came in last night UPS."

Doug

Youth Ministry – Jenn Wilcox

- Concert on Thursday was great.
- High School Lock In on October 20th needs more female chaperones.
- Youth plan to go to Kentucky for ASP June 24- July 2, 2007.

Church Council Chair – Ron Dorenbush

Jenn and Rachel Drummond provide great leadership for the Youth.

The Annual Charge Conference is on November 8th.

There will be no Church Council Meeting in November.

Outreach Ministry - Karen Berardini & Pat Murphy

- The library is now open at all times the church is. Self check-out procedure is posted.
- We received 16 new books from donations and our commission from the Cokesbury Book Fair.
- Reading Ministry volunteers will be receiving orientations the last week in October. We have twelve volunteers involved in this program.
- The next Newcomers' seminar is this Sunday, October 15. Ministry Area Leaders are invited to come at 5:15 to speak about their ministries and then to stay for dinner and get to know the new folks. Outreach ministry will now be providing 2 mentors for each group. Phil and Carol Comstock have

volunteered to be our mentors for this month's group. They will attend the class and dinner, then make monthly contacts to the newcomers for 6 months. They will also plan one other group event. The purpose of this is to help connect the newcomers to small groups and ministries. We need more mentors for future seminars. Contact Karen Berardini if you would like to be a part of this ministry.

- The Drive Thru Nativity is scheduled for Friday and Saturday December 8 and 9 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Many volunteers (especially actors and cookie bakers) are needed. Sign up at the bulletin board at the T-intersection.

Nurture Ministry - Mary Ellis & Donna Dorenbush

- Meeting with Pastors - Nurture co-leaders met with Pastors Doug and Clara and James Pace on Sept. 21 to share information, thoughts, and vision for Nurture Ministry.
- Martha's Ministry - Orientation meeting was held on Oct. 5. Groups have been assigned to cover receptions through the month of March. The handbook was distributed at the meeting and the brochures for grieving families are being revised. Thanks to Betty Brummer and all who have contributed many hours of valuable information-gathering and hard work in order to formalize this ministry.
- SL8 (St. Luke's Eight) - Fellowship groups joined together for their kick-off social on Oct. 8 at the home of Pete and Jacki Prindle. Small groups will begin meeting soon!
- Advent Dinner and Concert - Sun., Dec. 3
In response to Pastor Doug's lifting up this opportunity at the worship services on Oct. 1, five volunteers have come forward to help coordinate this event: Diane Robbins, Sherri Austin, Michelle Haskiell, Barbara Delgado, and Kathryn Budzik. A meeting with three of the new volunteers was held on Oct. 9.
- New Directory - Photos from the photography on Aug. 30 have arrived. The committee will continue to meet to finish the work on the new directory. "Submitted" photos (those not done by the directory company) for the directory must be in by Oct. 23.
- College Student Ministry - *Alive Now* devotionals for November/December will be sent to all college students. Care packages will be available for adoption beginning in early November.

Treasurer - Chuck Harris

Pastor Clara – She loves our energy and upbeat attitude.

Pastor Doug

- There are 22 people scheduled for new member class this Sunday, October 15th.
- There is interest in a Shalom, Salaam, Peace class.
- October 15th is lay Sunday.
- October 22nd is the 50th Anniversary of Full Ministry Rights for Women in the UMC.
- Bishop Kammerer organized a cruise for November 2007 for the Virginia Conference of the UMC following Paul's Journey. Pastor Doug will coordinate our participation and has paperwork for those interested in going.
- Council members brought praises and concerns, and Pastor Doug offered the closing prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Next Meeting: December 12, 2006 at 7:30 PM

Submitted by Faye Keenan, Church Council Secretary.