

**ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
October 9, 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 Dorenbush. There were 22 members present.

**DEVOTION**

Ken Engbretson read an excerpt from Chicken Soup for the Soul by Hanoch McCarty entitled “The Smile.” The story told of a soldier and a prison guard that shared a smile and despite a language barrier managed to share bits and pieces of their lives. This encounter resulted in the guards’ release of the soldier and reminds us that simply sharing a smile with someone, even someone you do not even know, can make their day a better one. Ken closed with prayer.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes for **September 11, 2007** were **approved** as submitted.

**OLD BUSINESS / FOLLOW-UP**

1. There was no old business.

**ITEMS REQUIRING DISCUSSION FOR ACTION / APPROVAL**

1. **Motion from the Finance Ministry: Request to approve the proposed budget (financial plan) for 2008 following a presentation and discussion.**
  - a) Sam Motley provided a visual presentation of the 2008 proposed budget.
  - b) Ministry areas were reviewed briefly giving chairpersons the opportunity to introduce changes, which were made accordingly.
  - c) William Sutton questioned the purpose of having staff salary and benefit budget lines under the various ministries rather than having them consolidated in a designated section. Sam Motley stated that this format was adopted by a former treasurer and has remained in affect. After discussion most members, including those of the SPRC agreed that consolidating the staff salary budget lines was more feasible. It was decided that for the purpose of reporting at the Charge Conference to continue with the current format and to incorporate the changes in next year’s budget planning.

**APPROVED: November 13, 2007**

**Motion was unanimously APPROVED. The budget will be presented at the Charge Conference for adoption.**

**2. Motion from the Finance Ministry: Request to approve the proposed 2007 Stewardship Campaign.**

- a) Tom Lyon presented the proposed Stewardship Campaign entitled “*Pearls of Wisdom 2007.*” This program has been tailored for St Luke’s from a program called “*Transformed Giving*” which was developed by Rev John Ed Mathison of the Frazer Memorial UMC in Montgomery Alabama. The program will focus on four areas of Stewardship: *Prayer, Presence, Finances and Service.*
- b) The following timeline was presented:

October

- 4 Meet with Finance Chairperson
- 9 Present Campaign to Finance Committee and Admin Council
- 12-17 *Mail Kickoff Letter*
- 15 Newsletter Article Due
- 21 Bulletin Insert on Prayer
- 28 Bulletin Insert on Presence

November

- 2 *Mail Commitment Letter and forms*
- 4 Bulletin Insert on Gifts
- 11 Bulletin Insert on Service
- 18 Commitment Sunday with Bulletin Insert

November-December

*Mail Thank you letters!!!*

- c) For continuity purposes Communications Coordinator, Megan Zahn, will maintain all materials in both book and electronic form.

**Motion was unanimously APPROVED.**

**3. From the Floor (Ken Engebretson) – Fund-raising considerations for 2007-2008 Relay For Life Events:**

- a) November 4 – Baked Potato and Chili Bar Lunch in Fellowship Hall
- b) February 3 – Super Bowl Subs Sale (pick up and delivery)
- c) March 2 – Brunswick Stew Sale (pick up)

**Motions were unanimously APPROVED.**

**REPORTS / ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**Finance Ministry** (Sam Motley)

1. Finance Committee did not meet in September but **continue to work on the 2008 financial plan, and the stewardship campaign.** Both issues were discussed at the Finance meeting that preceded the Church Council meeting.

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

1. **The deadline for the November newsletter is October 15.**

**Treasurer** (Chuck Harris)

1. The **September Financial Report** was e-mailed to Church Council members.

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

1. The **Drive Thru Nativity** is scheduled for Friday and Saturday December 7 and 8. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board at the T-intersection for Actors, Scene Managers, Hospitality Workers, Traffic Controllers, and Cookie Bakers.
2. We are planning a **TV ad campaign** for the Advent season. We have spent less than expected for the church library, so have the funds remaining to do this. We are using one of the Igniting Ministry commercials that they will customize with our church info. The commercial will run 53 times the week of December 12 on TBS, Lifetime, ESPN, ABC Family, and A&E for a total cost of \$3,884. After viewing the 30-second commercial several Church Council members commented that the message was very moving.
3. Outreach will be writing a **grant proposal** for us to run ads again next year, this time both at Lent and Advent. This is a matching grant through Igniting Ministry—if we run 2-week ads, they will pay half.
4. A survey has been mailed to Singles in our congregation to get their input on starting a **Singles Ministry**.
5. Twelve people are signed up as **Reading Tutors** at Grafton Bethel this year. Each tutor received a blue St. Luke's polo shirt to wear to identify him or her with St. Luke's.
6. The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School class is taking on the challenge of sponsoring a special **alternative-giving project for Christmas** at St. Luke's. Similar to the Heifer "Ark" project and the Advent Manger project done in previous years, this is a way to honor someone special at Christmas this year with a gift to one of three United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) missions:
  - a) At the \$15 level: Help children and adults living in institutions in *Armenia* to have more nutritious food through UMCOR's **Cheese Distribution Program**. Through this program Armenians living in 73 institutions such as orphanages, special schools, retirement centers, and mental hospitals receive nutrient-rich cheese that improves their prospects for good health. (UMCOR Advance #250225)
  - b) At the \$37 level: Serve a child in *South Sudan* a **School Lunch** every day for 6 months. Refugees are returning to this area of Sudan after decades of war. Families struggle to reestablish their lives, send their children to school, and provide for their young ones. This program ensures that school children have at least one nutritious meal a day. (UMCOR Advance #101250)
  - c) At the \$70 level: Provide a girl in the *Democratic Republic of the Congo* with tuition, uniform, and school supplies for one year. Through UMCOR's **Girls' Scholarship Program** orphaned and disadvantaged girls in the southern highlands of Congo are able to attend school. The success of the program is evident in the numbers—91% of the girls pass their examinations to the next class. (UMCOR Advance #198400)

A special tree will be set up in the Narthex in late November. Donors will pull a gift card/ornament for the program(s) they would like to support, write a check with the advance number on the memo line, and drop the check in the offering plate.

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

1. **Fellowship Minute** – Beth Mahood and Cathy Garrison are the new coordinators.
2. **Women's Retreat** – October 13-14 at Roslyn Retreat Center in Richmond.
3. **Travelers** – Trip to Lancaster October 22-23.
4. **Women's Breakfast** – Next meeting is October 28 at 8:30 a.m. Beth Mahood is the speaker. The group will *not* meet in November or December.
5. **Newcomers Seminar Dinner** – Following the seminar on November 11.
6. **Hallelujah Harvest '08** – November 17 (DDM)

### Youth Council (Katelyn Cianelli and Justin Torres)

1. The **High School Lock-in** on Friday, October 5 went well.
2. The **Middle School Lock-in** will be Friday, November 9.
3. Pastor Doug expressed a **thank you to Stan Scott and other youth leaders** for facilitating the youth program during the Youth Director search.

### Board of Trustees (Tom Sayre)

1. **Sanctuary Chandeliers** – The Chandelier Cleaning Party did a great job and our illumination in the sanctuary improved immensely.
2. **Narthex Roof Repair** – Peninsula Roofing Company repaired both roof valleys above the Narthex. They removed the shingles, replaced the flashing in the valleys, and replaced the shingles. We got a 1-year warranty on the work. Hopefully, this will solve our Narthex roof problem.
3. **Flat Roof Repair** – This roof is another problem. Peninsula roofing suggested we first get Peninsula Air to seal the ductwork going into the vinyl siding. Then the roofers will give us a price for replacing the rubberized covering over the entire flat roof area. I'm afraid this will be ongoing for a few weeks before we complete the job with any semblance of assurance that we'll stop the leaks over the area behind the sanctuary.
4. **Sanctuary Floodlights** – York Lighting ordered 12 new long-lasting flood light bulbs to replace the spot light currently in the sanctuary. Hopefully, we'll get that task completed within the next month or so.
5. **Classroom Temperature** – We plan to install thermostat sensors in four classrooms in the East end and four in the West end of the rear hallway. The sensors will average the temperature from the four rooms, which will in turn activate the hall thermostats as appropriate. The hall temperature will not affect the hall thermostat. Hopefully, this will give us a bit more comfort inside those classrooms.
6. **Boiler Conversion** – We plan to convert the oil-fired boiler to gas fired. However, we will coordinate this with the building committee to ensure it does not conflict with future building plans.

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

1. **Laity Sunday** will be on October 21. Kathryn Budzik will be the speaker.
2. **Homebound Communion Outreach Ministry** is looking for substitutes to assist.
3. **Acolyte training** was held in September. Three new acolytes attended the training. We now have 27 trained acolytes!
4. **All Saints Sunday** will be observed on October 28.

## **United Methodist Men** (UMM) (William Sutton)

### ***Local Church:***

1. The **UMMen of St. Luke's invited the women of the church** to join them in the September 16 breakfast and program about the Lackey Free Family Clinic. This organization serves the uninsured and less fortunate individuals in our area.
2. **October 21 will be the next fellowship breakfast** for the UMMen of St. Luke's. We invite all men of the church to come and be a part of this time together. If you regularly attend, please plan on encouraging someone else to attend with you.
3. **There is always a need and always a way you can serve others.** Come be a part of these fine men of St. Luke's.

### ***Peninsula District:***

1. Men and women gathered together for the **Annual District Prayer Breakfast** on Saturday, September 15 at Crooks Memorial UMC, Yorktown. Our speaker was the Rev. Tom Mercer from Hickory UMC in Chesapeake. Tom is the recipient of the 2007 G. Ross Freeman Award and was a great inspiration for all. The funds received at this breakfast go to Heart Havens.
2. The District UMMen cooked the food for the **Walk-A-Thon fundraiser** for the Lackey Free Family Clinic held on September 29 as part of the "*Extreme MAKEOVER—You Edition*" weekend. Thanks to all that participated in this great event.
3. The **next District General Meeting** for the UMMen will be held on October 22 at St. Luke's UMC. All General Meetings are open to all men and pastors of all the UM churches. Let's have a great turnout from St. Luke's men since this is on "home turf."
4. Put the weekend of November 2–4 on your calendars now for a time away on a **Spiritual Retreat for the UMMen.** This annual event will be held at Blackstone and has been a great moving experience for all those that have attended. Contact William Sutton for more details.

## **Building Ministry** (Blair Ellis)

1. Reference our September report, we had completed our review of Myler's June drawings and forwarded our revisions back to Myler (Steve Retorick) on August 27. On October 1, the Building Committee met and a WEBEX was conducted with Myler to discuss the latest design drawings. Attendees from St. Luke's were: Pastor Clara, Pastor Doug, Rob Anderson, Bob Dye, Tom Sayre, Ken Engebretson, Megan Zahn, Betty Miller, Blair Ellis, and Ron Dorenbush. Craig Dice (Designer) and Steve Retorick (Manager) were the Myler speakers for this discussion/WEBEX.
2. The WEBEX discussion highlighted some areas that need to be worked regarding the current design drawings. Over the next few weeks, we will work with Myler to get the information and the design as accurate as possible so that the building committee can provide the best possible presentation and an accurate update to St. Luke's congregation on the status of our work and planning.

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

1. Margie Smith reviewed a **request from United Methodist Committee** on Relief (UMCOR) requesting support of their ongoing program to gather medicine for use in distressed areas of the world. We agreed to support this program again this year. Appeals for donations from the congregation will be made via the Blurbs, Worship Bulletin, and monthly Newsletter. (*Acting prior to church council meeting since this is a Conference sponsored appeal*)

2. **ASP under the leadership of Keith Bird is off and running for the 2008 season.** An information meeting was held 16 September and the kickoff meeting was held 23 September. Keith and a committee of youth are finalizing the application.
3. A team of 5 (3 St. Luke's, 1 Providence, and 1 Gloucester) returned 26 September from a hurricane relief **trip to Gulfport MS**. Much work remains to be done there, although many of the churches there are starting to draw down their efforts. St. Luke's plans to continue with this work; two more trips are definitely scheduled, and we intend that more will be.
4. **Refugee resettlement** efforts are going well.
5. William Sutton reported that St. Luke's would again support the **PORT homeless shelter program** this season. We will have four nights to cover (exact dates not yet determined) within the following windows: November 21-28, December 12-19, January 23-30, and February 27-March 5.

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

In James Pace's absence Pastor Doug read the below report from the October Education Ministry meeting.

**1. Sunday School Update—**

- a. Teacher needs still in 3-4 year old class, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 4<sup>th</sup> grade
- b. What every teacher needs to know workshop (late OCT – Early NOV timeframe)

2. **Second Grade Workshop**—This past Sunday, 14 children began the workshop with the presentation of bibles from St. Luke's. The workshop is led by James in conjunction with Amie Pate and Leigh Garrett. Workshop continues through October 28.

3. **New Adult Sunday School Class Kickoff**—This past Sunday 5 couples attended the kickoff of the new 8:45 am Sunday. They selected as their first study, "***Simply Christian***" by N. T. Wright, one of the Wesley Network Studies.

4. **Hallelujah Harvest**—Met with Debbie Frecker and Brenda Ramsey to make plans – November 17; 4-5:30 p.m. (New Time).

**5. Confirmation Update—**

- a. **Retreat – 32 youth registered, 7 adults needed** – will be putting out plea this weekend to confirmation parents first. (Adults already going – James, Doug, Clara, Debbie Frecker, Liz Rowe and two others)
- b. Classes – **attendance is going great!** Each week we have had around 40 in attendance. Classes being led by clergy with parent helpers.
- c. **Looking for adult mentors** to walk along side confirmands beginning late January and going through confirmation Sunday in June.

6. **A Night in Bethlehem**—Family Fellowship Event in December. Taking the place of our traditional breakfast with event. High School Youth will be undertaking this project along with Debbie Frecker and Education. Based on VBS marketplace concept, only for entire family.

7. **Youth Sunday night programming**—Stan Scott is heading this up for us during the interim period. High School time is going back to its original format going to 8:00 pm.

8. **Disciple Studies**—Both Short term studies are going great! 12 in one and 14 in another. The Way of the Child class is off to a great start with 12 children involved, The Amazing Bible Race now has two teams – Middle school team has 6 people, and our High School Team has 5 members – Doug is leading on Wednesday nights.

9. **Fifth Grade Sunday School Class Christmas Project** for this year is to be an "angel tree" like project seeking donations to selected UMCOR alternative gift ideas.

10. **List of Sunday School volunteers** to be presented at Church Council in October.

**Associate Pastor** (Clara Gestwick)

1. Clara expressed her sincere gratitude for the overwhelming love and support their family has received from the congregation.

**Senior Pastor** (Doug Gestwick)

1. To date **32 applications for the Youth Director position** have been received and among them are some very viable candidates. Our clergy is conducting phone interviews with all who apply. An Interviewing Team consisting of the clergy, the SPRC and four youth will be developed as part of the interviewing process. Possible candidates will be asked to attend a worship service anonymously to see how it feels to be a first time visitor at St. Luke's.
2. The **change in the Confirmation program** has increased the number of youth attending Fellowship of Clay on Sunday nights.
3. Doug expressed his gratitude for the congregation's support of their family.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. The **Committee on Lay Leadership** meets on Thursday evening. Please pray that in searching for leaders that we choose the right person for the right job. The first person to volunteer is not always the right choice.
2. **Next Church Council meeting:** Tuesday, November 13, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.
3. **November Devotions:** Rich Zeimet
4. **November Refreshments:** Tom Sayre

**ADJOURNMENT**

Council members brought praises and concerns, and William Sutton closed with prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

*Submitted by Debbie Fullhart, Church Council Secretary*