

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

September 12, 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 September 2006 Church Council meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM. There were twenty-six members present. Jean Foster led our devotion about grandchildren’s questions on Jesus. Children always want to know everything. Jesus was big enough to cover our sins. She led us in prayer thanking God for our big and powerful Jesus.

August Minutes: The minutes were approved as submitted (with a small spelling correction).

Budget Presentation, Comments, & Discussion:

Ron asked each ministry area to go over their budget lines item. Highlights are:

Church Council - \$500 remains the same.

Nurture - Mary Ellis stated line 186, Family Fellowship, was increased to cover costs of dinners, retreats, fellowship ministry. Line 197 was increased for anticipated growth in new ministries (card ministry, Martha’s Ministry plus our dreams & hopes for 2007).

Outreach – Line 206 was increased for library books, equipment, supplies, etc; fellowship hosting; signs; drive thru nativity; special events; hospitality; door hangers/welcome packets.

Education – \$2,500 is needed for youth camp in 2007. William Sutton inquired about teacher training plans and budget. Rich stated that this will be added.

Worship – Kenna Rusk increased line 301 for Program Support to support special programs for Mother’s and Father’s Day Sundays, as well as the new Altar Guild.

Service Ministry – Don Rice will fine tune his submission with his committee on the 1st Tuesday of October. Lines 363 Disaster Relief, 375 VIMS, and 377 Church Society plus others will be addressed.

Communications – Ken Engebretson – Line 382 Radio Ministry increased by 35% to \$125 per week. Line 383 increase is for Christmas Mailing. Line 384 is increased to cover improvements to Sound & electronics systems, Projection systems for education, etc. Two TVs plus VCR/DVD are needed for education. Pastor Doug got a flier on staff training on audio visual presentation at churches and would like to send 3 from St. Luke’s. Conference Connectional is set by Conference. District Connectional is set by District.

Ministerial Support – Bo Walkley

This covers Nursery coordinator and employees, Youth Director, Organist, Music Director, Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor, DDM, Admin Coordinator, Preschool Director (church's contribution), and Communications Coordinator (increase in dental). 3.6% increase was applied to all salaries and their pensions. We are now required to provide pensions for all employees.

Facilities – Will be prepared by the Trustees & Joel will present in October.

Blair Ellis discussed saving our previous mortgage payment monthly and perhaps apply that to the Building Fund.

REPORTS

Youth Ministry – Jenn Wilcox

- Kick off went great on Sunday.
- Middle School and High School Lock Ins are scheduled.
- Youth meetings going back to regular times on September 17th.
- Youth going to Mercy Me/Audio Adrenaline Concert.

Building Committee – Blair Ellis

No Report

Education Ministry – Melissa Koch & Rich Zeimet

No Report.

Worship Ministry - Kenna Rusk

- Karen Kern is the new acolyte coordinator; acolyte training will be held this fall.
- UMC 50th Anniversary of Women Clergy – Oct. 22, 2006

Planning continues. Dr. Susan Garrett, Director of Connectional Ministries for the VA Conference will be our guest preacher. All of our previous women clergy have been invited to take part in the worship services & enjoy a potluck lunch after the 11 a.m. service.

- The Wedding Guidelines & Wedding Coordinator Duties
 - The recommended changes have been approved by the Worship Ministry area. We're asking for Church Council approval.
 - Pastors Doug and Clara will do counseling.
 - Changes include hostess, sanctuary usage, pastors, music fees increase and nursery services. The ratio is a minimum of 1 adult per 5 children and for our child protective policy, 2 adults minimum will always be present. Gary Anderson said that the Code of VA states that the amount for Commissioners and justice of the peace is \$50. There is no limit on pastor's fees.
 - A copy of the Wedding Coordinator Duties is provided for informational purposes (this will be posted on the website).
 - Changes and revisions were approved by Church Council.

- Worship Ministry will be participating in the Church-wide Open House – tomorrow through Sun.

Service Ministry – Don Rice

- VIMS – Multiple trips to the Gulf are planned.
- United Methodist Men meet on Sunday. All men invited.
- Relay for Life will have a couple fundraisers this year: November 5th or 12th Potato and Chili Bar and on February 4th, Super Bowl Subs. These were approved by Church Council.

Outreach Ministry - Karen Berardini & Pat Murphy

- The St. Luke's Library Grand Opening and Book Fair begin tomorrow in Room 17 (across from Pastor Clara's office.) Hours are:
 - Wednesday, Sept. 13, 5-9 p.m.
 - Thursday, Sept. 14, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
 - Sunday, Sept. 17, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Self check-out will be available at all times the church is open beginning tomorrow.

- Mentors are needed for the Newcomer's seminars. We hope to have 2 people to mentor each newcomer class group. Mentors will attend the seminar, and then meet with the "class" at least one other time for fellowship. They will contact the newcomers monthly during the first 6 months of membership and encourage the new members to join a small group and become involved in ministry. If you can help as a mentor, please contact Karen or Pat.
- Outreach will have a table at the ministry fair during Open House.
- The Outreach Ministry team will not meet in October.

Nurture Ministry - Mary Ellis & Donna Dorenbush

- Fellowship Dinner – Sept. 13 from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- Fellowship of Eight is now SL8 (St. Luke's Eight) - kick off social Oct. 8 from 7 - 9 PM

Communications Ministry - Ken Engebretson & Megan Zahn

No report

UMW – DeAnn Posey

No report

UMM – Rich Zeimet

The District UMM Prayer Breakfast will be on September 16th.

Lay Leader Council – No report.

Finance - John Masten

Budget will be finalized at next Church Council meeting. It is imperative that budget requests/data reach Finance Committee early enough to be included in the Presentation to Church Council on October 10th.

Treasurer - Chuck Harris

Director of Discipleship Ministry - James Pace
The Tri-District Training will be on October 14th.

Pastor Clara - Everything is going well. She and Pastor Doug discussed responsibilities and he will cover that area.

Pastor Doug

- Pastor Clara's defined responsibilities are Service, Nurture, Convalescent Services, Home Bound Communion and Primary Visitation.
- Pastor Doug's defined responsibilities are **Finance, Administration, Trustees, Communications, Outreach, Worship (F.A.T. C.O.W.)**
- There were 512 in Worship last Sunday which is the largest attendance this year except for Christmas Eve 2005 and Easter.
- Congolese Missionaries will be visiting our area in October and we need host families. October 24th will be a Covered dish Supper and October 25th will be tour date and 5 p.m. return drive to Portsmouth.
- Pastor Doug asked for purchase approval for Pastoral Robe for Brandon Robbins. This was approved by Church Council.

New Business: Called Church Conference reported the Church Council approved the sale of the Associate Pastor's Parsonage. Ron will establish a committee to determine use of assets from sale of the Harwood Parsonage.

Council members brought praises and concerns, and Pastor Doug offered the closing prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Next Meeting: October 10, 2006 at 7:30 PM

(Devotion Faye Keenan; Refreshments Karen Berardini)

Submitted by Faye Keenan, Church Council Secretary.