



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 25, 2009

Attending: Cleo Abbott, Jim Bishop, Leon Couch, JoAnna Emerson, Jim Emerson, Muffet Emmanuel, Frank Ferreri, Mary Kilgour, Barbara Kirby, Harold Henderson, Audrey Lewis, Cecile Morse, Jim Nation, Betty O'Byrne, Carl Romey, Elizabeth Shaw, Larry Shaw, Amy Watson, Bill Yeager.

Mary Kilgour Presiding –Opening prayer by The Rev. Bill Yeager.

Minutes of July 28, 2009 meeting approved as circulated.

STAFF REPORTS

1. Finance Committee – Audrey Lewis- Written reports attached
2. Preschool Director – Amy Watson – Written report Attached
3. Director of Music – Robert Jackson – Written report attached
4. Children, Youth and Young Adults – Frank Ferreri – Written report attached
5. Trustee – Leon Couch – Written report attached
6. Assistant Pastor – Carl Romey –Written report attached
7. Assistant Pastor – Bill Yeager – Written report attached
8. Senior Pastor – Dr. Harold Henderson – Written report attached

OLD BUSINESS - COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

1. Larry Shaw reported that the Men's Club assisted in the move in and move out of IHN during the previous week, assisted in some Church repairs, and will serve as waiters on tables during the Stewardship Luncheon on Sunday Sept. 13. Larry also displayed several crosses that he had made from nails that were used at the Walk to Emmaus program recently.

2. Finance Committee Sub-Committee on Fundraising - Barbara Kirby said that plans were in place and a few contacts have already been made in the effort to ask a few selected individuals to consider making an additional contribution to the 2009 operational budget. This is to be done prior to the Stewardship Drive for the 2010 Church program, which culminates with a celebration Sunday on Sept. 13, 2009.

NEW BUSINESS

Motions Presented and Passed:

1. Motion by Amy Watson, second by Muffet Emanuel: FUMPers is an integral part of the ministries of FUMC. In the past, the FUMPers Preschool Board was an officially recognized committee of FUMC. Also, the United Methodist Association of Preschools dictates that the Preschool Board be nominated and elected by the annual church Charge Conference. FUMC has not been following this model in the last few years. The motion specifically reestablishes that members of the Preschool Board be once again nominated by the Nominations and Leadership Development Committee and that the Preschool Board be regarded in all respect as a committee of FUMC.

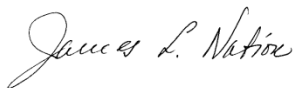
The motion passed by unanimous vote.

2. Motion made by Audrey Lewis, second by JoAnne Emerson: The May 8, 2009 Report of the Annual Audit of FUMC recommends that the FUMPers bookkeeping be prepared by the FUMC Finance Office and not by the Preschool Director, and that the Preschool checking accounts be closed and moved to the Special Ledger of FUMC. Preschool fees will be collected by the Preschool Director and given to the Finance Office for deposit. Bank reconciliations will be prepared by an independent person. This motion accepts the audit recommendation in full as stated.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting was closed with a prayer by The Rev. Carl Romey.

Respectfully submitted



James L Nation, acting secretary for the meeting

First United Methodist Preschool (FUMPers) Report

-presented to the Church Council on August 25, 2009

FUMPers will be beginning the 2009-2010 school year on Tuesday, Sept 8th.

I ask for your prayers for a successful year!

- We are excited to welcome a new teacher to our teaching team at First United Methodist Preschool. Marie Broling has been hired as our Music and Movement teacher.
- All of the teachers begin preparing the classrooms and preplanning this upcoming Monday, Aug 31st.
- During the summer months, several upgrades have taken place in the preschool area in Bell Hall:

-The Trustees paid for the painting and renovation of two classrooms and two bathrooms. Also funded by the Trustees was the installation of a peephole on our entrance door and a security keypad. These last two items help to improve security in the preschool area.

-Larry Shaw, David Watson and Tony Taylor have removed radiators and pipes and replaced floor tiles. This gives us a little extra needed floor space in three classrooms.

-Playground cleanup after three months of FL rain and sunshine has taken place! Weeds and limbs have been trimmed back, fresh sand added to the sandbox and new mulch has been spread. This necessary work makes the playground very inviting.

Thank you for your support of this ministry of FUMC Gainesville!

- submitted by Amy C. Watson
Director, First United Methodist Preschool
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First United Methodist Church Council Meeting 8-25-2009 Report from the Director of Music

Not much has changed since my last report. Chancel Choir has begun rehearsals again, and the Instrumental Ensemble will begin tomorrow night at 6:30 PM. The children's music program will gear up after Labor Day with the same schedule as last year, but with a new title. We are now calling it the First Church Kidz Music Club. All children ages 4 through 5th grade are encouraged to participate.

This Sunday we will be present Jim Hendricks in a Christian Piano Concert program at 5:00 PM in the Sanctuary. All church members, family and friends are invited to attend. Jim will also be playing during the two morning worship services to give everyone a chance to see his talent. I'm hoping for a large crowd on Sunday.

As we enter the fall season, we have several events scheduled:

- Sunday, August 30 – Jim Hendricks, Christian Witness & Piano Concert
- Sunday, September 13 – Stewardship Sunday – Combined Service
- Sunday, October 4 – Festival of Choirs – Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
- Sunday, October 18 – Children's Sabbath Sunday
- Sunday, December 13 – Festival of Lessons and Carols
- Tuesday & Wednesday, December 15-16 – Dicken's Inn

Also this fall Jenny Eckenrode and I will be returning to the annual Distinctly Bronze event in New Bern, NC (October 8-12). Distinctly Bronze is an auditioned event for 106 advanced handbell ringers. It was

good to have Jenny accepted last year and we are happy that Evelyn Jones was accepted and will traveling with us this year. First Church will be well represented.

Unfortunately we have had to cancel Melanie Yeager's Organ Recital. She feels she does not have the time to adequately prepare for it, so we are discussing a new date in 2010.

Looking into the new year

Saturday, January 2010 – 2nd Annual Gainesville Handbell Festival

Friday & Saturday, March 12-13, 2010 – Florida State Handbell Festival

Respectfully submitted,

Robert W. Jackson, Director of Music Ministries

Frank Ferreri -- Report to FUMC Church Council -- 25 Aug 2009

As another academic year begins, we look forward to a full slate of activities in my areas of responsibility. Coming up this Sunday, we are offering all undergraduate and graduate students a free lunch after the 10:55 am service. We've advertised this heavily in the *Alligator* and online, so we hope to see a good crowd with us. After Sunday, we will host the lunches again on the first Sundays of October, November, and December. The idea for the lunches grew when we began to recognize that we were attracting increasing numbers of students to Sunday morning worship. Our hope for the lunches is to learn who our student worshippers are, find out what spiritual needs they have, and get them connected with one another and with us.

We are in full-swing with the stewardship campaign for 2010. We want to remind everyone that we will be celebrating Consecration Sunday on September 13 with a combined worship service at 10:30 am and a catered luncheon afterwards to celebrate our efforts. The reason we are having a combined service is two-fold. First, we hope to have a large crowd at the luncheon and an opportunity there for people from the two services to connect with one another. Secondly, we want to emphasize that our financial stewardship is a corporate affair -- we do it together as one body responding to a common call on all of us to give a percentage of our income to the Lord's work through FUMC. Our hope and prayer is that the congregation has and will continue to use this stewardship season as a time of spiritual renewal, seeking growth in Christ as we prayerfully consider what God is asking us to give. As we did in 2007 and 2008, we will have an opportunity to consecrate our pledges during the worship service on September 13 by coming to the altar with our pledges. We encourage everyone to take advantage of that opportunity.

In mid-August, the youth had an abbreviated youth week, in which we had an etiquette dinner at Harry's restaurant, handed out snack bags to Helping Hands patients, played kickball on a terribly hot afternoon, and spent a few hours tubing the Ichetucknee. I'm thankful to the parents who helped out with those events; they take good care of our youth and deserve the church's gratitude.

As I reported to the Council last month, I'm excited about two developments in our Christian education efforts. First, beginning September 8, a class targeted to young adults called *Serious Answers to Hard Questions* will meet on Tuesday evenings through about mid-November. Also, beginning September 13, Robin Brandon will be leading a new Sunday school class to give our adult Sunday school lineup another offering. We hope it will draw folks to Sunday school that don't currently attend. Robin is a talented individual with great leadership skills, a sharp mind, and a heart for Christ. The class will implement a rotation teaching model so that more talent and leadership will be brought to the fore.

And speaking of Christian education, I hope to see a good turn out for the short-term Disciple Bible study on the book of Genesis I'll be leading on Wednesday nights. If you're still uncertain about what class to take, I'll humbly recommend mine.

Lastly, I'd like to report on a point of praise in my personal life. Starting in about two weeks, I will begin taking classes in the Master of Divinity program at Asbury Theological Seminary's satellite campus in Orlando. I don't know whether that is where my educational journey will end, but I'm eager to get started on some formal theological training and education, and Asbury's course offerings are flexible enough to accommodate my work schedule here at the church and my teaching work with USF. I appreciate your prayer support as I continue to discern where God is leading me.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Ferreri
Director of Children, Youth, and Young Adults

REPORT TO CHURCH COUNCIL
25 AUGUST 2009
ASSISTANT PASTOR-WILLIAM H. YEAGER

As I sit down to write, the first things that come to mind are Memorial Services conducted during this past month. The first was Alma Swartz; a long time member of First Church, and a teacher of grammar school students here in Gainesville. She died at the age of 101. The second was Charlotte Hedden, grandmother of a former student within the Wesley Foundation. And the third is Idell Cherry (to be held tomorrow morning), a cousin of Gene Zimmerman, the District Superintendent who first appointed me to Gainesville. These remind me of the connections we make over a period of time, and lead me to think further of the meanings of those relationships.

The Care Partners Team meets next on Tuesday, September 8, in the Parlor. The group continues to grow as we are given new assignments. Reports of new relationships begun have been encouraging and inspiring. We are adding members of University UMC to our care list.

Pastoral Care has now been extended to UUMC, and we are following up on names given to us from the former Christ UM Mission Church. It is important that all of these know that there is a church home available to them.

In that regard, a new Bible Study will begin on September 16 in the home of Hilda Wiles at The Village. Members of FUMC living there are also being invited, along with those from UUMC.

We have received 40 registrations, thus far, for the fall term of Wednesday Evening Classes. The preview will be on Wednesday night, September 9, with the first class scheduled for September 16.

I want to especially invite those who have not yet registered to consider the Grief Share course, to be led by Doug and Ricki Kirk. How many times have we wanted to comfort one who has suffered a loss, or wished for help in dealing with our own grief? The other class that I want to highlight is the Disciple-Genesis study. Frank Ferreri is leading this short term offering on the book of beginnings. The remaining two studies, The Sacraments and Religion and Science, are almost full. Please get your registrations in soon so that books can be ordered in a timely manner.

Once again, please accept my thanks for your faith in me as I begin full time service one week from today.

Grace and Peace,

Bill Yeager

Report to Church Council, August 2009.

The theme adopted by the General Conference in 2008 for The United Methodist Church for the 2008-2012 Quadrennium is “Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.” Those are our marching orders as a congregation.

The Florida United Methodist Conference has (within the last year or so) adopted five **Missional Vital Signs** that are mandated for each congregation in the Conference as guideposts designed to move us in the direction of the General Conference theme. The five **Missional Vital Signs** are:

1. Passionate Worship
2. Salty Service
3. Extravagant Generosity
4. Intentional Discipleship
5. Radical Hospitality

These **Missional Vital Signs** are said to constitute “The Methodist Way.”

For a number of reasons, I have not felt that it would be productive to superimpose this particular structure and terminology on the approach we have been taking to “growing the church” since the beginning of 2007. What we have been doing includes all of the five elements and I felt that learning a new vocabulary and structure to accomplish what we were already doing was not an important priority and could even represent a diversion from our planning and prioritization.

In the last few days, we have received the schedule of Charge Conference dates and times and have been assigned Wednesday, October 28, at 6:00pm, with our District Superintendent, Rev. Annette Pendergrass, being the Presiding Elder. The instructions we have received in preparation for this year’s Charge Conferences include the following:

“Bishop Whitaker has asked that each charge conference focus on the reporting of the Missional Vital Signs and what churches are learning from that process. Each church is asked to give a verbal report on how you see God at work in your church through any one of the Five Practices of the Methodist Way...” We will have plenty to report but will need to shape it into the structure outlined above. It, therefore, seemed an opportune time to introduce the **Missional Vital Signs** and the concept of “The Methodist Way” into our vocabulary and thought-processes.

And that is the purpose of this report. I personally am not all that excited about some of the terminology, though I support the concepts, and feel that it is important for us as a congregation to integrate in this way with the program of the wider church.

Harold Henderson, Senior Pastor.
August 25, 2009