

“I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag and to the Savior for whose Kingdom it stands. One Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again with life and liberty to all who believe.”

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 3, 2009

Jean Unruh opened with an intercessory prayer and Carl Bartell called the meeting to order at 7:13 P.M. The Council pledged their allegiance to the American and the Christian flags.

The minutes of May 6, 2009 were approved by Wendy Schmitt and seconded by Harry Vercoe. The motion passed.

Financial Report – Sandy Shipe presented the Treasurer’s Report. John Gladwell moved to accept the report; the motion was seconded by Wendy Schmitt. Motion passed.

Old Business

1) Changes to UMC Constitution – Carl Bartell pointed out that the two main topics that members of the Annual Conference are being asked to vote on are:

- Inclusiveness of the Church – While emphasizing the wideness of God’s mercy, this amendment would deny the pastor or the congregation any role in determining a prospective member’s preparedness for receiving membership into the church.
- Internationality of the Church – This amendment would tend to diminish the worldwide nationality of the Methodist Church and the change is being proposed without a firm plan for reorganizing.

Carl opened the topic for discussion. The Council agreed that Pastor Mike and Lay Member Jean Unruh should vote their conscience at Annual Conference on June 11-13. Mike reported that a conference in Texas had defeated the proposals by a vote of 70% against, 30% for.

2) Technology Update – Carl Bartell said that the church website (www.conleyschurch.com) has received 1100 hits since its inception. Carl also requested any pictures, videos, etc. taken at church functions be sent to him to enrich the site.

New Business

1) New Church Groundbreaking Ceremony – The groundbreaking will be held on Sunday, June 14. Plans are to leave the old church between 11:30 and 11:45 after second service. Various church leaders will dig in the dirt with golden shovels as a ceremonial beginning of construction. A hole will be dug under the pulpit area and some scripture will be buried there. Thus, pastors preaching in the new building will be “standing on the word of God.” The attendees will form a human chain around the cross-shaped foundation of the new building as a plane flies overhead to capture their picture. The United Methodist Men will provide ushers for safety on the site, especially for the elderly.

Committee Reports

Prayer/Evangelism/Membership Committees – Wendy Schmitt said that Vacation Bible School will be held on July 6-11. While most staff for VBS is complete, there is still a need for camp counselors and actors. Casual Sunday/Church picnic will be Sunday, June 28, beginning at 10:30 A.M. There will be a combined service for both Sunday morning congregations. Saturday night attendees are invited to participate also. Cathy Straub, Myra Mitchell, and Danielle Moore are heading up the Picnic Committee. We are once again borrowing the big tent from the Community Church of Oak Orchard. A hat will be passed for donations to thank them.

Social Concerns Committee – The Committee developed a charter to guide their mission. Their purpose is to: (1) access the requests for assistance that are too expensive or too labor intensive for a lone outreach group of the church to handle and (2) develop guidelines for assisting people who call the church office for help with electric and water bills, hotel bills, food, etc. These guidelines will establish priority of assistance and control abuse of the system.

Missions Committee – Jean Quinn appreciated the write-up on the missionaries in the Newsletter. In the future, she will also forward any CD or photos she gets from the missionaries to Carl Bartell for use on the website.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee – Jean Unruh reported for Jerry Mitchell that the S-PPRC had met and begun work on annual evaluations of staff.

Lewes-Rehoboth Association of Churches (LRAC) – Harry Vercoe gave some highlights of the May 12 L-RAC meeting. The New Life Thrift Shop continues to post monthly profits of over \$40,000. In the 14 years that it's been in business, the Shop has contributed over \$3 million to the community. Lend-A-Hand ministries distributed over \$20,000 to regular and emergency cases in April. The improvement project in West Rehoboth is moving along nicely. Sunday services at Cape Henlopen State Park began on May 31. The International Student Outreach Program has its meal plan in order. Cape Henlopen Food Basket served 1,175 households/3,544 individuals in the first 4 months of 2009. They will experiment with being open on Monday evenings. The next L-RAC meeting will be June 9.

Trustees – John Gladwell and Pastor Mike presented our building plans to the Dover District Committee On Church Location and Building. The Committee was pleased with the job being done and gave its blessing to continue the work. At the site, the footings are completed and the block is being laid. In the current sanctuary, the crack in the wall behind the banner is being repaired.

Health Ministries – No report.

Pastor's Report – Mike stated that everything is going well. He's excited about where we are and where we're going with the new church. He's involved in plans for taking further steps in a capital campaign. He took a Continuing Education course on "Preparedness for Marriage," and recently conducted 3 weddings.

Lily Roadcap called for a round of applause in appreciation of Pat Short and all her labors in raising funds for the new church. The Council is grateful for what she has done.

John Gladwell moved to adjourn at 8:07 P.M. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jean Unruh, Secretary