

First United Methodist West Lafayette

Church Council

March 21, 2011

Church Council members attending: Jim Beaty, Dan Berger, Bill Fornes, David Eichenauer, Judi Forsyth, Rich Frank, Lowell Gardner, Sally Gustafson, John Jones, Mike Heinz, Max Hoke, Bob Nicholson, Jeanne and John Norberg, Dave Ridings, Glen and Lana Robyne, John Sorenson, Nancy Wagner, Barb Witz, Bob Zink. **Absent:** Bill Boyer, Tracy Badgley, Doug Morehouse, George Van Scoyoc.

Committee chairs and representatives to Church Council : Jan Beaty, Shari Bittles, Ray Buchanan, Eileen Chamness, Tim Delworth, Jim Driskill, Anne Kolodny, Karen Logan, Neil McTavish, Jim Paine, Brian Titlow, Mary Welch. **Absent:** Nola Gentry, John Polles, Gail Polles, Joe Rasmus, Ellen Wilson, Cary Mitchell, C. Virgil St. John

Others attending: Charles Boonstra, Karen Logan, Aaron Nagel, Suzanne Paine.

Opening Prayer: Bill Fornes

Church Growth Services

Members of the Building Committee, Church Council and Church Growth Cabinet are specifically asked to attend a meeting 7 p.m. Thursday to hear report from consultant Dick Beall. Additional sessions to which the entire congregation is invited will be held in April. More than 270 people attended our earlier visioning sessions.

Lay Leadership report: *Bill Fornes*

Doug Morehouse is leading a group exploring the creation of a small group ministry to begin in the fall. Also on the planning group are Jane Creswell, Bill Fornes, and Pastors Dan Berger and Lana Robyne.

Lay Leadership update: *Pastor Berger*

Nominated the following for membership on church committees:

- Church Growth Committee: Andrew and Krystie Ritchey and John Norberg.
- Secretary of Church Council: Jeanne Norberg
 - Motion made by Jim Beaty
 - Second by Mary Welch
 - Approved unanimously

Pastoral and staff reports: *Shari Bittles, Pastor Lana Robyne, Pastor Dan Berger*

Sunday School numbers continue to be well rounded. All but one of our dedicated teachers will return in the fall. Additional teachers have been identified.

Our Mid-Kid concept—grouping 5th and 6th graders—is a model others would like to copy.

Children's worship activity bags will now be available at Wired Service as well as those at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Vacation Bible School is June 20-24. Theme is "Shake it up Café." We saved 20 percent — \$1,000 — by buying the curriculum early. There is always room for additional helpers. We are networking with other churches and sharing our leftover materials and resources with them.

Adult classes are going well and are full. We could use more space.

GIFT has offered class both on a semester and a monthly basis. The last class will be on first Wednesday in May with a cook out and celebration.

Worship Committee: *Pastor Dan Berger*

Our new member class had 12 individuals. Five of them attend the 11 a.m. service and seven attend WIRED.

- Our average attendance is 427 for January/February.
 - 8:30 a. m. 90
 - 11 a.m. 236
 - Wired 101
 - Average attendance for that same period was 439 in 2010 and 389 in 2009.
 - 116 participated in the Ash Wednesday service, the largest in several years.

Four lawn services are planned for this summer: May 29, July 3, Aug. 1 and Sept 4. Note that three are holiday weekends.

Four services for Easter are planned:

Sunrise: 7:07 a.m.

Traditional: 8:30

Traditional and WIRED: 11 a.m.

The youth will serve breakfast 7:45 to 9:45 a.m.

Upcoming: Pastor Dan Berger will video record his sermon to replay in the WIRED service.

Eric Barker and Pastors Dan Berger and Lana Robyne attended a marketing seminar in conjunction with the Center for Congregational Development. They learned the importance of maintaining a brand (a common look for publications, signage, web site, ads, etc). They also were cautioned not to think of themselves as being in competition for parishioners. There are plenty of un-churched people to go around.

Trustees: *Ray Buchanan and Brian Titlow*

Six volunteers needed to help mow 2-4 hours every six weeks. Anyone age 10 or older is eligible.

U.S. 231 is under construction. Watch to make sure no bulldozers are crossing our lawn! To avoid having electrical poles installed along the road on our property's right-of-way, the trustees recommended paying up to \$15,000 to have the electrical lines buried, the difference between what the state would have paid to install the poles and what it costs to bury the lines.

- Motion to approve by John Norberg.
- Seconded by Neil McTavish
- Approved unanimously

Money will come from new building fund.

Trustees directed to hammer out the details.

We have switched to Comcast for our Internet and phone lines, picking up basic TV service for one location in our building. This improved Internet speed and saves money.

Staff Parish: No one was present to give a report

Finance: Tim Delworth

The 2011 operating plan is \$714,428 after correcting for an error in which one item was double counted.

Pledges increased \$33,000 after appeal to congregation in January, bringing pledges to \$553,584.

Pledges, though, are always less than the actual income.

Receipts were up 6 percent in January/February over the same period last year.

Receipts are " the best indicator of income, " said finance chair Tim Delworth. For January and February, expenses versus revenue were virtually even. "With receipts up, I'm very confident we'll make budget," Delworth said

We were \$43,000 in the red last year. This figure is not factored into this year's operating plan.

We have \$35,000 in the building fund, from which we'll be taking up to \$15,000 to bury electrical lines. (See Trustees.)

The Finance Committee will provide financial updates in the bulletin every month or every other month.

Foundation: *Jim Payne*

Annual meeting is set for noon Sunday April 10. The speaker is David Owen, executive assistant to Bishop Coyner, Indiana Conference, who will talk about the "Great Beyond."

Building Finance: *No representative*

Tim Delworth commented that we try to make \$15,000 quarterly payments to pay down the debt, now \$179,368.

Council on Ministries

Worship Committee: *Neil McTavish*

The committee would like to know the procedure for changing the worship schedule during the summer. After discussion, it was recommended that the first step would be to build a consensus with Worship, Education, Youth, teachers, those who attend the affected service(s) and pastors. Once agreement is reached, the proposal should come to Church Council. The general consensus of the Church Council was that it is too late to propose any changes to the worship schedule for summer 2011.

Village Nursery School: *Jan Beaty*

Registration is in full swing for 2011-2012 classes. FUMC families are permitted to register first, then current VNS families, then there will be open registration. As of now we have one full class (with a long waiting list). With open registration we are hopeful to have full classes by fall. We are considering the addition of full-day Pre-K to help children prepare for full-day kindergarten.

Wesley Foundation: *Pastor Glen Robyne*

There has been cross fertilization between WIRED and Wesley. Half the band at WIRED is made up of Wesley students and a group of freshmen attending WIRED learned about and attended the Wednesday service at Wesley.

Missions and Social Concerns: *Mary Welch*

Missions thanks Church Council for restoring a portion of the Mission budget — \$6,000 — and pledged to try to raise the rest by making a focused appeal on the second Sunday of the month coupled with PowerPoint and video throughout the month.

Old Business

Rich Frank will not be able to attend annual conference this year and asked that another be recruited for this purpose.

New Business

Jeanne Norberg submitted a motion, that was e-mailed in advance to Church Council members. The motion read:

To establish a process for establishing FUMC's annual budget

The Finance Committee will inform all budgeted areas of any financial concerns by Aug. 1 and ask them to submit draft budgets no later than Aug. 21. Each group is requested to divide its budgeted items into fixed and discretionary expenses and provide written information as needed.

The Church Council and Finance Committee will meet jointly on the first Tuesday in September to hear presentations on budget requests from each area, giving each group 10 minutes to present its case, followed by questions and answers. The compiled budget will be presented to the entire congregation by the third Sunday in September.

Should the pledges be less than the budgeted requests, the Finance Committee or its designee(s) will inform the congregation the second Sunday in October, and ask for additional support, utilizing appeals from the pulpit, bulletins, e-mail and Prevue.

Should the congregation choose not to pledge the additional support by Nov. 10, the Finance Committee will inform the budgeted areas and ask them to trim and resubmit budgets by Nov. 30. The Finance Committee will then assemble and forward the proposed budget to the Church Council, which will then meet in special session no later than Dec. 10 to vote on the budget, making final cuts as needed.

Bob Nicholson referred the motion to the Finance Committee for consideration and refinement with the request that it report back in time for consideration at the May Church Council meeting.

Other

A request was made that childcare be provided for major meetings. It was learned that the person setting up such a meeting should be the one to make the arrangements

CLOSING PRAYER: *Pastor Dan Berger*

(This report and the written reports of committees are available at www.fumcwl.org/See written reports from committees available at www.fumc.org/ChurchCouncil)

Secretary: Jeanne Norberg