

First United Methodist West Lafayette
Church Council
July 18, 2011

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

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

Others attending: Charles Boonstra, Billy Bross, Cyril Brown, Don Caddy, Bob Day, Denny Frank, Larry Huggins, Suzie Kline, Stu Kline, Andrew and Krystie Ritchey.
Absent: Anne Kolodny

Opening Prayer: Pastor Dan Berger

Minutes: Minutes for the May meeting were approved by e-mail in March. That approval was re-affirmed without change at tonight's meeting. Minutes and reports from that meeting are at www.fumcwl.org under the "Church Council" link.

New Building Committee

Neil McTavish: (Summary and PowerPoint on Web.) Highlights:

In response to a consultant's report that the congregation is unlikely to support a \$7 million capital campaign, the committee brainstormed and recruited members with technical expertise – including Stu Kline and Alex Gonzalez -- to develop alternatives. The committee developed 13 ways to reduced costs while retaining functionality. These included:

- Reducing the size of the sanctuary to accommodate 450 worshipers instead of 600.
- Changing to a continuous roofline.
- Changing to a more modular plan that can be supported with off-the-shelf products rather than custom products.

Suzie Kline spent more than 60 hours sketching revised plans, and the FUMC experts reviewed the revised cost. Three alternatives were developed. These will be presented to the consultant in the next few weeks, and if he concurs, input will be sought from the full congregation.

Small Groups Update

Doug Morehouse: A plan for rolling out small groups was presented. (See Web.) Highlights include:

- Steering committee members are Doug, Bill Fornes and Jane Creswell and Pastors Lana Robyne and Dan Berger.
 - We will launch one small group in the fall to train leaders who will start other small groups starting the first of the year.
 - Groups may have different emphasis/goals but will emphasize development of on-going care and connections, accountability, and a deeper relationship with God.
 - Small groups are not to replace or compete with GIFT or LIFT.
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Finance

John Jones: (Report on Web.) Highlights:

- We are in better financial shape than we were last summer at this time. The receipts for July are good and that bodes well for meeting our operating plan.
- Last year at this time we were \$50,000 behind on net receipts to support the operating plan. Now we are \$23,557 behind. We usually make up the difference in the fall.
- Finance reported in the bulletin that actual receipts as of June 30 were \$311,816 while disbursements were \$356,022.

FUMC Foundation

Doug Morehouse: As of 6/30/2011, the F UMC Foundation has \$1,311,745. That is up from the end of the first quarter by \$30,000 and up \$46,000 since the first of the year's total of \$1,265,000.

Building Finance: No report

Trustees: No report

Lay leadership

Pastor Dan Berger: Presented nominations for vacancies:

- Max Hoke to chair education, replacing Nola Gentry, who will continue to serve as a member of education.
- Krystie Ritchey to chair Church Growth, replacing Jim Driskill
- Jason Hanko to serve on Staff Parish, replacing Aaron Nagel, Class of 2013
- Barbara Latin to serve on Trustees, replacing Letty Mitchell, Class of 2013

John Norberg moved acceptance. Bob Zink seconded. Motion carried.

Staff Parish: No report

Education

Pastor Glen Robyne: A rough draft of proposed fall LIFT classes was passed out. Input requested. (Copy on Web.) Contact Pastor Lana Robyne.

Youth ministries

Glen Robyne:

- 11 youth and counselors from FUMC participated in Youth 2011.
- 20 youth and counselors went to Sault Ste Marie, Michigan, for a week serving the elderly.
- About half of the 25 participants in Bikers for Jesus were from FUMC.

Children's Ministries:

Shari Bittles: (See report on Web.) Some highlights:

Vacation Bible School

- We are nearing capacity. Ideas are needed to accommodate more. We are not advertising but word of mouth brings in more each year.
- FUMC served 255 children, 80 percent who were return participants.
- Mission for VBS was Feed the Kids. They collected 85 boxes of cereal; 280 cans of meat, soups and vegetables; six large bags of rice; and five grocery bags of miscellaneous food.
- FUMC is sharing its decorations with Congress Street Methodist Church in Lafayette and another church in Michigan.

Sunday School

- Attendance is dropping.
- Looking for ideas to encourage parents to attend the adult classes so they will take the children to Sunday School.

Village Nursery School: (See Council on Ministries report on Web.)

Missions

Mary Welch: (See Council on Ministries report on Web.) Highlights:

- We expect to give Maria Humbane and the Ishe Anesu School \$2,250 toward the school and \$3,250 of the \$10,000 needed to build an orphanage. Most of the funds came for donations from members of the congregation and the rest will be made up from the missions budget.
- In August we will encourage gardeners to bring in their produce to sell in support of summer caps and general missions.

Music

Ellen Wilson: (See Council on Ministries report on Web.) Some highlights:

- To encourage older children to stay in choir, we may create a group for the children in 1st-3rd grades and another for children in 4th through 6th grades. They would practice separately but perform together.
 - Our leader for Praise Band has resigned, but we will try to keep this unique sound alive by recruiting members from the congregation.
 - An assessment is being performed on the condition and restoration of the pipe organ.
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Other

Pastor Berger:

- Worship attendance for July is up 5 percent over last year (424 vs. 405).
- Offerings totaled \$41,000 for the first three weeks of July significantly stronger than last year.
- A group is reviewing the church rolls to identify those who have not been participating in a long while. We currently have 800 members on the rolls and about 50 are not participating. These people will be contacted, encouraged to renew their participation or assisted with transferring, as needed. Names to be removed will be presented to the Charge Conference in November. Those removed can be reinstated at any time they choose to re-engage.
- Since 2010, congregations no longer pay apportionments based on membership, the senior minister's salary, etc. Now each congregation is expected to contribute 10 percent of its offerings to the Methodist Church, 1 percent to its district and 1 percent to the mission of that church's choice. Sixty-five percent of churches in the Indiana Conference paid their tithes in full. FUMC was one of them.

Old Business

Jeanne Norberg: Thank you to everyone who turned committee reports by Friday July 15 so they could be distributed to and read by the Church Council members before the Monday meeting.

New Business

The next meeting is Monday, Sept. 19. Committee reports should be submitted to Rhonda Todd and Jeanne Norberg by noon Friday, Sept. 16.

CLOSING PRAYER: Pastor Berger

Secretary: Jeanne Norberg