

First United Methodist West Lafayette

# Church Council

December 12, 2011

## Attendance

**Church Council (voting) members attending:** Jim Beaty, Dan Berger, Shari Bittles, Ray Buchanan, Don Caddy, Eileen Chamness, Bill Fornes, Judi Forsyth, Lowell Gardner, Mike Heinz, Max Hoke, Anne Kolodny, Neil McTavish, Doug Morehouse, Bob Nicholson, Jeanne and John Norberg, John Jones, John Polles, Dave Ridings, Glen Robyne, Nancy Wagner, Ellen Wilson and Barb Witz. **Absent:** Tracy Badgley, Bill Boyer, Rich Frank, Sally Gustafson, Cary Mitchell, Lana Robyne, and C. Virgil St. John

**Others attending:** Eric Barker, Jan Beaty, Karen Logan, Joyce Pervine, J.R. Pervine, and Amanda and Brian Titlow. **Not attending:** Ginny Dienhart, Gail Polles, and Mary Welch.

**Opening Prayer:** Bill Fornes

**Minutes:** Minutes for the Sept. 19, 2011 meeting were approved. Motion was made by Ray Buchanan and seconded by Lowell Gardner. Minutes and reports from today's meeting and previous meetings are at [www.fumcwl.org](http://www.fumcwl.org) under the Church Council link.

## Calendar

The next Church Council meeting is 7 p.m. Jan. 9, a change from the previously set date. At that time, the council will hear the report and recommendation from the new building consultant.

## Council on Ministries:

*See full report online*

Neil McTavish

Attendance was down slightly in September and October, although up for the year. To explore ways to make FUMC more welcoming and inclusive, A "Paths to Discipline" Task Force has been formed, led by Chuck Newton, our Adult Education Council leader. A study by the district's director of church development has found those involved with the Music Ministry or Children's Ministries at FUMC feel more connected than others. The task force is open to anyone with an interest and is expected to work on the project for the next six months. You can reach Chuck at [chucknewt@yahoo.com](mailto:chucknewt@yahoo.com).

**Children's Ministries:** Shari Bittles

*Report is included in Council on Ministries' report online.*

Shari Bittles

She has surveyed her parents. As a result, she has designed a new parent/infant/toddler Sunday school class. Five families have joined.

Children's Ministries teamed with ACE for Trunk or Treat in the FUMC parking lot for Halloween and are looking forward to doing it again next year. They also teamed up with Youth Ministries and WIRED for the Happy Birthday Jesus fundraiser.

**Education**

*No report*

**Missions and Social Concerns**

*See report online.*

**UMW**

*See report online.*

Basket auction and dinner raised \$2,500 for missions. We are now feeding 100 children at Edgelea School in partnership with Christ and Congress Street United Methodist churches.

**Worship**

*Report included in Council on Ministries report that is online.*

We will have Christmas Eve services at 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. but no children's service. Instead the 6 p.m. service will be somewhat tailored to families with young children.

**Youth Ministries:**

*Full report is online.*

Glen Robyne

Youth Ministries is taking a new funding approach. For every hour the youth help with fundraisers, \$10 will be set aside in their name toward the next youth mission events. One special activity is planned for each month. They will have a summer camp and mission trip this summer.

Jason Milligan has been hired as the junior high youth coordinator. He will work with the outgoing coordinator for two months, but their hours combined will not exceed the funds allocated.

**Pastoral and Staff Reports**

Dan Berger

Plans for the Buchanan Pastoral Counseling are on track to open in January. Pastor Berger has raised \$4,995 in donations for scholarships, equipment and signage that will say "Home of Buchanan Pastoral Counseling and Village Nursery School."

A roster of FUMC committee members was approved with some corrections, following a motion by John Jones and a second from Neil McTavish:

- Shari Bittles should be listed as ex-officio member of Church Council.
- We need to correct the spelling of Joel Rasmus.
- Jeanne Norberg should be listed as secretary for missions.
- Denton Sederquist is the trustee representative to New Building Committee.
- Tish Dehaven should be removed under casserole team.

New members to Church Council are Janet Ainsworth, Jason Rowe and Tim Scott.

The following committees have vacancies:

- Church Council: One member at-large
- Finance: Chair and vice
- Trustees: Chair and vice plus two at-large (Karl Tollefson, who was expected to serve as chair, is moving.)
- Staff-Parish: Secretary
- Lay Leadership: Three members
- Education: Secretary
- St. John Memorial and Gardens & Columbarium

## **Finance**

*Operating plan and year-to-date operating plan are online.*

Doug Morehouse

The Church Council voted to approve the 2012 operating plan, with one dissenting vote, cutting it from the proposed \$776,930 to \$750,000. It includes a 1.5 percent raise for the pastors and staff.

There was concern expressed that the Finance Committee had not followed the process approved by the Church Council in May. The Finance Committee had not taken up the budget until the Thursday before the Church Council met, leaving no time for rebuttal by the other committees. The members of Church Council did not receive copies before the meeting. There also was discussion of process involving the raises, which were approved at Charge Conference in November before the Church Council had approved them. There was general agreement that we'd do better next year.

## **Foundation**

Doug Morehouse

We have \$1,210,613 down only 4% from last quarter. Of that \$874,499 is designated, \$100,702 is undesignated and \$235,412 is earmarked for ministry

enhancement accounts. Committees with funds earmarked for them should request those funds from the Church office. Also please petition the Foundation for funds for special projects.

## **Trustees**

*Report, playground plans and new signage concept are online.*

Brian Titlow

The trustees expect to ask Church Council to approve spending about \$50,000 for an outdoor sign that is at least 150 square feet with a digital display. They will check to see if we can receive a variance for one that is 200-220 square feet. A new projector has been purchased. Ethernet is working well. Two computers replaced seven-year-old models in the sound booth.

Ray Buchanan

Downstairs offices and classrooms as well as the Activity Center need painting, which is expected to cost at least \$10,000. Funds are not in the budget. They were painted eight years ago.

Water is backing up along Indiana 26 behind our culverts. A new water management system is needed, that likely would include larger culverts. The expected cost is \$20,000.

## **Staff-Parish**

John Polles

The council approved an increase in the non-taxable housing allowance for the pastors. Pastor Berger may claim \$30,000 and Pastors Robyne may claim \$10,000 (with another \$20,000 from Wesley Foundation).

## **Building Finance**

*No report*

## **New Building Committee**

Dave Ridings

Input sessions drew 152 members. We expect the results from the consultant's report in January. The next step would be a vote by the Church Council, timing to depend on when we get the report. From there it would go to the District Conference for consideration. If approved, Beale would help form a fundraising committee.

## **Village Nursery School**

*See report online.*

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Pastor Berger

Secretary: Jeanne Norberg