

LAITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 29, 2007

Members Present:

Pastor Scott Harris
Pastor Bill Holleran
Pastor Brian Pikalow
Phyllis Klock
Paul Cross
Derek Scott
Paul O'Dea
Nancy Trinchitella
Carla Smith
Jerri Rickard
Amber Smigielski
Shirley Ashley
Joan Kessler
Bill Bowmar
Richard Adams
Hillary Swengel

Special Guest:

Bruce Snyder

1. Pastor Scott opened the meeting with prayer.
2. The minutes of the July meeting were approved.
3. Phyllis pointed out the updated Laity Council membership list was distributed with the meeting agenda.
4. Derek Scott spoke about current giving. We are in much better shape than we were in July and are about where we need to be at this time of the year. We have also caught up on apportionments. Each committee has been cooperative during the spending freeze. Pastor Scott spoke about the impact of the Parade of Ministries. Derek has prepared a letter to be distributed as a part of the financial campaign. Nancy Trinchitella told us a postcard (front cover is from the Parade of Ministries) will go out Tuesday, 10/30/07.
5. The 2008 Proposed Budget was passed out with explanations from Nancy, Derek, and Paul O'Dea. Provisional approval was given, and it was agreed that the final approval will be handled via e-mail as it was last year.
6. Pastor Scott will give a stewardship message at all three services this coming Sunday (Stewardship Sunday, as well as All Saints Sunday).
7. Paul O'Dea addressed the staff salaries in the 2008 budget. No increases were given, with the exception of Pastor Molly due to her status change from part-time Student Minister to full-time Local Pastor. Nancy noted that the allocations within Pastor Bill's salary will change with a portion designated as Housing Allowance. The 2008 Proposed Budget includes a new line item for "Pastor/Lay Staff Bonuses," which would implement cost-of-living increases if the budget results so warrant. Pastor Scott's salary is an exception as it must be approved at Charge Conference. If funds become available to implement bonuses, discussions will ensue with the District Superintendent to determine whether/how Pastor Scott's salary may be changed. Salaries and Housing Allowances for our appointed pastors will be approved during the Charge

Conference. Paul also noted that the District Superintendent will no longer send forms to congregations to state if they are willing to retain or wish to change their current pastor.

8. Paul Cross spoke about the Trustees' projects, beginning with the landscaping. During this period there may be some inconvenience with entrances being blocked off. The first 'dig your own plants' will be Saturday 11/3 before noon, near Fellowship Hall from the flag pole to the sidewalk; the week after that (11/10) plants from in front of the Sanctuary. Kenny Schwartz is working on a new fountain near the playground area. All the tree-trimming has been completed with the exception of 3 trees at a special rate of \$1500.00 per day with a 3 day minimum. If anyone is interested in helping with these last trees and/or has equipment, speak with Paul. He may call a Trustee work day to help remove the rest of the moss. Paul also said they had to re-bid the new directional signs. They haven't yet determined what is the best course of action to fix the brickwork outside of the Sanctuary. Hopefully, by the end of the year, the cross by the Fellowship Hall will be repaired/replaced.
9. The need for new HVAC equipment was addressed by Paul Cross and Derek Scott. This needs to be done within the first quarter of the year when the air conditioning normally isn't needed. Paul has researched all the options and determined that the cost to replace will be approximately \$200,000. Currently the Fellowship Hall has no heat; if we only "fix" this portion the cost will be approximately \$22,000. We will need to increase the budgeted amount for electricity and repairs if we do not go forward with a new system. The Finance Committee has suggested a Capital Campaign for this new system. A vote was taken to approve this project going forward. Scott has spoken about this need at all of the Speak with the Pastor meetings.
10. As part of Making Asbury's Vision a Reality, Pastor Scott thought the impact of the reality of what our congregation offers shown by the Parade of Ministries went really well. Many thanks to Peggy and two of their grandchildren (Bianca and Brittany), for their hard work on about 60 signs. The follow-up this past week depicting our Missions with Dianna Bates and Lavinia Buchberger continued to show Asbury fulfilling our mission statement and our vision.
11. Phyllis Klock addressed the 2008 Congregational Goals and Strategies, which were developed from "The Methodist Way" event with Jeff Stiggins on 10/13/07. These come at the direction of the Bishop to all congregations to set goals in three areas: passionate worship, radical hospitality, and salty service. These goals will be approved at the Charge Conference before being sent to the Bishop.
12. Bill Bowmar stated that the Honoring the Badge service was successful. Many in attendance remarked that so many honored guests and other attendees have spoken with them about the impact this event had for them. The UMM Board would like to make this a permanent committee for the celebration to be continued yearly. Pastor Scott acknowledged that he had already promised the Mayor we would do this again in 2008. Follow-up will be through the Reggie McNeal Roundtable.
13. Carla Smith spoke on behalf of Teresa Scott regarding our partnership with Hungerford Elementary School. Our focus should be personal service to the school, not just about giving them money. There is still the need for 46 volunteers to help out. Some of these requests will only require about 30 minutes each week) – Shirley Ashley will speak with the SAC group about volunteer opportunities. Teresa provided refreshments for the staff meeting last week. The children raised \$200 at their lemonade stand that will go to two families for Christmas. There are some families that have also decided to adopt some other families for the holidays. There will be a breakfast to promote the Boys & Girls

Club and volunteers are needed. Also, on Thursday, 11/8 volunteers are need for curriculum night. Please bring your "Box Top for Educators" to Teresa or place in the bag on the bulletin board in the Narthex. We will be collecting used uniform skirts, shorts, and pants to help those who may need them. Jim Hancock found out that the Hungerford students can go to the Maitland Historical Society free of charge. The school's principal appreciates all that Asbury is doing to help the school.

14. Amber Smigielski reported that there needs to be better communication regarding Youth Events, so that more youth will attend and bring friends. More effort will be made to send out flyers in advance with all the details. Bruce will get the information in the bulletins and The Rider. Pastor Scott will do "commercials" from the pulpit.
15. Over 200 people have attended 16 Meet with the Pastor sessions so far. Pastor Scott is happy that the congregation has been supportive of these opportunities. Derek Scott had provided a pie-chart on our financials that helped in sharing that information. Our congregation is excited about and love our church.
16. The Education Committee has proposed bringing in Pat Cassidy for a training event in January. The event is entitled "Contagious Christianity".
17. A tentative date of 5/24/2009 has been set for a 50th Anniversary commemoration Homecoming Event (our church began 5/24/1959 with 78 members). Nancy will ask the Bishop to put it on his calendar. A committee will need to be formed in January to plan this year-long celebration.
18. We may have a couple who is willing to take on the task of getting a new Pictorial Directory in 2008.
19. The Hallelujah! Festival this Wednesday has enough volunteers now, but needs more candy. If the weather is bad, we will move the event inside. The Laity Council thanks the volunteer committee who organized this event so that the children can enjoy themselves.
20. Phyllis thanked Paul O'Dea, Derek Scott, and Paul Cross for their three years of service to Asbury as committee chairs.
21. Phyllis reminded everyone to attend the Charge Conference Sunday in the Sanctuary.
22. The next Laity Council meeting will be Tuesday, January 22, 2008 (the church is closed 1/21).
23. Pastor Pik closed the meeting with prayer at 8:08.