

## Minutes - 1/22/08 Asbury Laity Council Meeting

I. The meeting was opened with some excerpts from Pastor Molly Warren's 12/30/07 sermon, reminding us "we were made to be used and made for service; that we weren't coated sterling silver to be admired, but sturdy heavy duty pots to be used; and that the church was never meant to be a china cabinet, but a working kitchen - we need to move our faith from our head to our hearts to our hands." (We were asked to keep Molly in our prayers for her interview with the Board of Ordained Ministries 1/23/08, especially since she is still on "Greece time.")

Pastor Scott Harris, Senior Pastor, opened the meeting in prayer.

II. Phyllis Klock, Chair of Laity Council, went over the various documents distributed at the meeting and reminded us that all the dates of the meetings for this year are listed on the Agenda. She requested that we make every effort to attend these meetings. If members have any items to add to an agenda, please let Phyllis know about 2 weeks before an upcoming meeting.

The 10/29/07 agenda was accepted as presented. The 12/30/07 Charge Conference minutes were approved.

We were reminded that the 2008 budget had already been approved electronically.

We reviewed the list of Laity Council members.

We were given from the Cokesbury guidelines information on the role of the Laity Council, with the reminder that we serve to vote on behalf of the entire church. The Laity Council is the coordinating group that serves all groups within the body of our church.

We looked at the goals we had set last year that we are to implement under God's guidance.

Each month the Executive Committee has a breakfast meeting.

Laity Council minutes will be sent electronically to each Laity Council member and will be available to all via the church website.

Kevin Smith, Finance Committee Chair, reported on the HVAC Capital Campaign. He informed us that the estimated cost of this project is \$200,000 and there have been \$73K in commitments already pledged by church members. A letter from to the congregation from Kevin is scheduled for the week of 2/10, with a campaign kick-off scheduled for 2/17.

Pastor Scott said we should celebrate the fact that we again paid our apportionments in full. He added that Nancy Trinchitella deserved our thanks for keeping everyone reminded about where we could and couldn't spend funds.

III. Council members were urged to attend the "Contagious Christianity" event with Pat Cassidy on Friday from 6-9 pm and on Saturday from 8 am to noon. This seminar will help us learn how to be a witness of Jesus Christ in non-threatening ways that are natural to each individual. All church leaders are encouraged to attend. There also will be a lunch (Dutch-treat) on Saturday at Steak 'N Ale to discuss "next steps."

As part of our Goals & Strategies we will be looking at each program that is offered to see if it is still valuable. We have been challenged by the Conference to establish realistic goals with strategies and measurements to accomplish in 2008. Having adopted goals at our Charge Conference, we now need 2-3 staff members and 2-3 Laity Council members to work on each goal.

5/24/2009 is our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We want to make this a special commemorative event. We plan to request the Bishop or someone from his office to attend. One component of this celebration will be the publication of a new pictorial directory to be completed near the end of this year. Some ideas for the anniversary include the following:

combined worship service followed by a dinner  
dinner the night before and special services on Sunday  
former pastors as speakers in the months preceding the  
anniversary  
a year of service, with each month a special area of focus  
re-writing of the history of Asbury, originally written by Archie  
Cook  
involvement of older Asbury members

If you have any ideas for this celebration, please let Phyllis know. Also, please contact her if you know that a member of the Asbury family is an event planner.

The Hallelujah! Festival is proposing a different direction for 2008 and asked that the Laity Council support the proposed change. If the proposal is adopted, there would be a Fall Festival at the Wednesday Night Live immediately before Halloween. The Fall Festival would include cook-offs and other activities, including a training session on how to use Halloween as an outreach in our own neighborhoods. A motion to adopt the Fall Festival idea was made by Brian Pikalow and seconded by Bill Holleran. The motion was approved on a unanimous vote.

The Easter outreach festival for 2008 will be similar to that in prior years. A lay member already has volunteered to coordinate this special event.

Bill Bowmar reminded the Council that the UMM dinner/dance is 2/16 for \$12.50 per person. Tickets are available from UMM members and in the Church Office. This is not a fundraiser, but a fellowship event.

Bill Holleran closed us with prayer.

Those in attendance: Bill Bowmar (UMM, Bruce Snyder (Publishing), Gerry McDonald (UMW), Wanda Brown (Reaching Up), V. Scott Harris (Sr. Pastor), Tom Russell (Music Ministries), Brian Pikalow (Pastor for Families and Unchurched), Bill Holleran (Youth Pastor), Amber Smigielski (Youth Representative), Jay Fraxedas (Staff-Parish Chair), Nancy Trinchitella (Church Administrator), Kevin Smith (Finance Chair), Phyllis Klock (Laity Council Chair), Hillary Swengel (Reaching Across).

Submitted by,  
Hillary Swengel  
Recording Secretary

cc: Phyllis Klock