

MINUTES 3/31/08 LAITY COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting was opened with prayer by Scott Harris, Senior Pastor, at 6:45pm.

Pastor Scott reported that Molly Warren was unable to attend because her mother is very ill. Also, Brian Pikalow was unable to attend because he is editing his dissertation to turn in on Wednesday (which he will defend on April 15th).

The minutes from the January 22, 2008 meeting were accepted. The current Laity Council list has been updated to include Mike Lee as Trustee Chair.

Phyllis Klock, Laity Council Chair, reported that she met with Pastor Scott regarding leadership for the 2008 Congregational Goals and Strategies. Some actions already have been set in motion. There will be revisions to the website to increase visitors (under Passionate Worship). The family mission trip which began in 2007 will leave next week for the Florida Keys (under Salty Service). Honor the Badge will be held on September 6th (under Salty Service). Pastor Scott will send a letter to the Mayor, Fire Chief and Police Chief regarding this event. The Council agreed to add IHN to the programs included under Salty Service and discussed the possibility of becoming a host church for IHN in the future. Nancy Trinchitella will look into what structural changes may need to take place to accomplish this. The Laity Council needs to agree on the “metrics” for the evaluation of the growth of all ministries included in this category. Lastly, Pastor Scott reported that a Welcome Center has been donated to us from Jerri Rickard’s church. The center will soon be set up in the narthex. We will need to gather materials and then get volunteers to staff the center so as to offer information and give directions to our guests.

Mike Lee reported on the HVAC project. Three bids had been received, with all coming in at the \$200,000 range. A fourth bid will be sought and possibly a fifth. Paul Cross has continued to chair this effort. It is anticipated that the project in the Sanctuary may take about two weeks (possibly in June) and that services may be held in the Fellowship Hall during that time. We may also offer a Saturday evening service in Fellowship Hall during this time. Celebration will meet in the Sanctuary at its regular time on April 13th while work is being done on the Fellowship Hall air conditioning.

Kevin Smith, Finance Committee Chair, reported that an update will be given on April 6th during all services to thank those who have given or pledged to the HVAC campaign. The presentation will include a second request for pledges. Kevin also indicated that regular budget giving is running at about \$20,000 ahead of last year.

Karisa Workman, Education Committee Chair, reported that course evaluations have been received for “Contagious Christianity” and were very positive. Del Wright will offer this class during WNL or Sunday School. Peggy Harris will lead an effort to recapture our history of small group ministry using “Building a Church of Small Groups” by Bill Hybels. The Tween class will begin soon. Kevin and Carla Smith are leading a Parenting class. Children’s Worship is maxed out. The next marriage seminar will be a

mini-course, not an entire weekend. Pastor Brian will be starting a Christianity 101 class during the 11:00 am hour called HABITS (based on Col. 4: 12b), using the Rick Warren books "Discovering Christlike Maturity" and "Discovering Your SHAPE" (II Peter 1:10). Bruce King would like to start Golf Bible studies at country clubs based on a Wally Armstrong book. After the study they will play golf (this is a Reggie McNeal follow-up). Dennis Stevenson feels that the 2009 Enrich U needs a renewable source for curriculum seed money.

Confirmation Sunday will be April 13th. Pastor Scott will speak with Pastor Bill Holleran, Youth Pastor, regarding a reception.

Liz Rea was commended for her wonderful job as volunteer coordinator of the Easter Festival held on Saturday, March 22nd. (Liz could not attend the Council meeting because of a sick daughter). 200-300 people attended; 2700 eggs were stuffed; 600 hotdogs were served; and the event was mentioned in an Orlando Sentinel article covered as "Art of Hunting Eggs". The budget was \$2,000, and the unused balance will go toward VBS. There was a welcome table and ministry fair featuring upcoming summer events, Hungerford Elementary outreach, camps, and Single Parent Ministry (SPM).

The Single Parent Ministry held a meat sale and car care event at the same time as the Easter Festival. Lavinia Buchberger (SPM Chair who was unable to attend the Council meeting due to knee problems) and the staff and single parents feel that these two events work well together. April Peacock reported that three families helped by SPM on Saturday attended the Easter Sunrise service the next morning. A suggestion was made that our free events should be stressed to SPM families. A copy of the thank-you letter sent to Publix for their help with the SPM meat sale will be published in The Rider.

Pastors Molly Warren and Brian Pikalow will graduate from Asbury Seminary on Saturday, May 17th. There will be a reception after the 11:00 am service on Sunday, May 18th to honor their accomplishments. As many as possible are encouraged to attend the Friday night service at Annual Conference on May 30th for Molly's commissioning as a probational minister.

There will also be a Pentecost celebration in all services on May 18th.

Bill Bowmar, UMM President, reported that there were over 120 in attendance at the Valentine's dinner and dance, so that was a great success. There will be a Father/Son banquet on Thursday, June 12th, with a sports figure as the featured speaker. The District UMM will hold their July 24th meeting here at Asbury (100-150 men to attend). UMM will need help with this event. Dinner will be in the Fellowship Hall and will last an hour, followed by the meeting in the Sanctuary (the piano/organ will be needed for three songs). The meeting will conclude with communion. The time will be 6:00-9:30pm.

Pastor Brian is leading prayer and Bible study with the members of the Orlando Predators (Arena Football League). Their new GM, Alan Gooch, wants to make the atmosphere more family-oriented (Brian knew him when he went to UCF, and Phyllis knows him as a

committed Christian). Alan or a member of the team will speak briefly to the congregation on May 4th. (On the same day that Brian met with the team, Jay Fraxedas had a meeting with someone else with a Predator connection.)

Under New Business, there will be a recognition of volunteers on Wednesday, April 23rd (WNL is over on April 16th), with awards given by improv players (SAK comedy-style). This is open to all members of the congregation. Coffee and dessert will be served.

Asbury has received a letter from the Office of Transformational Ministries (headed by Jeff Stiggins) naming Asbury as in the top 10% of churches in the Annual Conference in key areas. We will be recognized at Annual Conference. This honor will be shared with the congregation on May 20th. (This is given based on Conference quantitative measures – increased attendance, confessions of faith, percentage of increase of average attendance – and, because of faithfulness and obedience.)

We will be reconsidering the structures of the Laity Council regarding “coaches” and the like. We want to be sure to focus on where we are going instead of pigeon-holing people. A proposal on this topic will be presented at the June meeting.

Those in attendance: Phyllis Klock, Bruce Snyder, Paul Schumacher, Teresa Scott, Nancy Trinchitella, Scott Harris, Wanda Brown, Dave Brown, Kevin Smith, Jerri Rickard, Bill Bowmar, Tom Russell, Gerry McDonald, Jade Anderson, Karisa Workman, Hillary Swengel.

Respectfully submitted by,
Hillary Swengel, Recording Secretary