

MINUTES OF JUNE 30, 2008 ASBURY UMC LAITY COUNCIL

The meeting was opened at 6:46 pm. with prayer by Senior Pastor Scott Harris.

The minutes from the last Laity Council meeting on 3/31/08 were approved as presented.

Church Administrator Nancy Trinchitella and Finance Chair Kevin Smith reported on the latest details of the HVAC project. Last Wednesday the Trustees met to contract JA Croson & Company to complete the project. They hope to begin this week with the smallest project (Choir Room area). The project has been divided into six areas. If all goes according to the current schedule, the Sanctuary/Chapel/Parlor area work will be done in August. (During this time, the contingency plan will be to hold all services in Fellowship Hall and possibly to introduce a Saturday night service as well.) The current schedule could change. The contract amount is approximately \$155K for the air conditioning work. The Trustees have already advanced \$20K from their savings for the work on Fellowship Hall, with these funds to be returned from the HVAC campaign funds. There is also an unknown element due to potential electrical issues. The total project will be approximately \$200K. Once again, we owe many thanks to Paul Cross for all the research and preparatory work he has done.

Another issue reported by Nancy for the Trustees is the Florida Conference directive regarding church vans. Due to the body shape of these vans, the insurance costs are increasing and the Conference has asked all churches to discontinue their use. Our older van has been donated to another ministry, and we've received \$4K from the Conference towards a new vehicle. It is expected that the newer van will be sold by the end of the year, at which time we will receive \$2K from the Conference.

Kevin Smith reported that we are still ahead of last year in giving. For the HVAC project we have \$108K on hand, with \$36K in pledges (totaling \$144K). The Finance Committee will discuss a second effort at raising HVAC funds and may wait until the fall to do so.

Dennis Stevenson reported for Education Chair Karisa Workman, who is on vacation. Dennis spoke of the huge success of Contagious Christianity and of plans to offer this program again. Bruce King's first meeting of the "Mulligan" Bible study was this past Sunday, with Wally Armstrong (the book's author) giving a clinic. The clinic went well, and the first class begins on July 13th. A second new study to begin on July 13th will compliment the "HABITS" class that Pastor Brian Pikalow has been teaching, and will be led by new members Tom and Jeannette Russell. With the help of Peggy Harris, they've chosen curriculum from Cokesbury entitled "What's in the Bible and Why Should I Care?" This class will be for those in their 20s and 30s. Dennis also noted that the Wednesday evening Promise Keepers group will begin a new study on July 9th entitled "Winning at Work and at Home."

The Education Committee reviewed the budget with Nancy Trinchitella to look into the finances for curriculum. The line item for small groups for adults is \$1,500 (with \$1,000 to Disciple). Currently, all classes pay for their own books, with scholarships for those who cannot afford the costs. While this has worked well, the committee would like to increase the budget to \$7,500.

Peggy Harris has been asked to head a sustained effort to re-establish small group home studies with the goal of 36-40 groups. She has recruited Margie Pabst and Jeannie Farmer to help. Please prayerfully consider hosting a group if asked.

Under the category of 2008 Congregational Goals and Strategies, Laity Council Chair Phyllis Klock commented that the Asbury website is increasingly more attractive and geared to those who are "looking" on the web. We thank Bruce Snyder for all the changes. There was also discussion about changing the format for sermons on the web to an MP3 format instead. There is enough space at this time to enable listing the sermons by topic or Scripture text.

Pastor Scott reported that now that we have the Welcome Center furniture (given by Jerri Rickard's church and refinished by Paul Schumacher) we need the people and process to be put into place. The Pastoral

Staff has also been looking into creating a service aimed at the 20s-30s age group and will report at our next meeting. Phyllis Klock, Paul Schumacher, Pastor Molly Warren, and Pastor Scott Harris will be meeting again to look more into our 2008 Congregational Goals and Strategies.

Mike Polonus will head the 50th anniversary pictorial directory of 2009. He's already taking photos to be included. We are still waiting to see if we have a new bishop before inviting the Bishop to participate in our celebration next year.

We will again host "Honor the Badge" to thank Maitland's police and fire/rescue personnel. The event will be held Saturday, September 6th. Pastor Scott has spoken with the Mayor, who is very excited about this activity. He also spoke with the Fire Chief. The Fire Chief already has asked the Maitland Symphony Orchestra to be involved and has sent out information to his personnel. [Due to space considerations, Director of Music Ministries Tom Russell will contact the MSO director regarding a possible ensemble group.] There will be a celebration service in the sanctuary from 10-11:15am, followed by food cooked by the Maitland Men's Club (all the food donated will be donated) and a jazz concert by the lake. We anticipate that this year's event will be larger than last year's. Those who did not receive the book last year will be given one this year. We plan as well to share thank-you notes with our police and fire/rescue guests. Keri Burns has agreed to coordinate the event. Keri, Pastor Scott, and Tom will meet soon to organize.

In mid-August, Celebrate Recovery will be two years old! They will have a special potluck to celebrate the date. Pastor Molly reports that there has been a lot of healing and growth and many conversions. The group is very thankful for their wonderful volunteers.

The Laity Council is considering restructuring the leadership positions. Paul Schumacher and Pastor Scott looked into this. The Coaches positions will be eliminated since we are no longer following the "Natural Church Development" pattern. The Chairs of the Education and Mission Committees will be added. Pastor Scott believes these are all within the basic church structural guidelines. This will decrease the Laity Council list from 39 to 23 members. The motion to approve this change was made by Molly Warren and seconded by Tom Russell and was passed.

Pastor Scott would like to have a Counseling Center established at Asbury. He has contacted St. Luke's UMC to see if they might be able to establish a satellite center here once or twice a week from their counseling staff (which is already Conference approved). Paul Schumacher moved that Scott be approved to look into pursuing this option. Molly Warren seconded the motion, which then passed. Considerations of space and funding need to be explored more fully. Additional discussion will occur at the Council's September meeting.

Bill Bowmar reported for United Methodist Men that the Father/Son banquet was successful (110 attended this year versus 75 last year). He also noted that the July 24th District UMM Dinner and Banquet meeting to be held here at Asbury. There will be a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center for this event. The golf tournament is the UMM's only fundraiser and will be held on October 8th.

Our next meeting will be Monday, September 29th at 6:45pm.

Associate Pastor Molly Warren closed the meeting with prayer at 8:04pm.

Those in attendance were: Phyllis Klock, Gerry McDonald, Bruce Snyder, Kevin Smith, Amber Smigielski, Bill Holleran, Paul Schumacher, Nancy Trinchitella, Jerri Rickard, Scott Harris, Dave Brown, Wanda Brown, Tom Russell, Bill Bowmar, Molly Warren, Dennis Stevenson, and Hillary Swengel.

Respectfully submitted by,
Hillary Swengel, recording secretary