

MINUTES OF ASBURY UMC LAITY COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 29, 2008

The meeting was opened with prayer by Phyllis Klock at 6:45 pm. In attendance were the following: Bill Bowmar, Wanda Brown, Jay Fraxedas, Dr. Scott Harris, Rev. Bill Holleran, Gerry McDonald, Dr. Brian Pikalow, Yvette Pond, Jerri Rickard, Rev. Tom Russell, Teresa Scott, Amber Smigielski, Kevin Smith, Bruce Snyder, Nancy Trinchitella, Lisa Wallace and our guest, Suzanna Lawler-Isco.

The minutes of the last Laity Council meeting (June 30, 2008) were approved as presented.

Phyllis thanked everyone for their cooperation with regard to electronic voting on three matters of business that needed to be addressed prior to this meeting. Those matters were the following: (1) affirming Rev. Tom Russell as a Pastor, (2) approving the Staff-Parish Relations Committee recommendation of the compensation package for our Senior Pastor, Dr. Scott Harris and (3) correcting an oversight wherein the listing of proposed Laity Council positions failed to include that of the Publishing Secretary.

The agenda was altered to accommodate our guest, and Dr. Brian Pikalow introduced Suzanna Lawler-Isco. Suzanna gave a detailed, visual presentation of the proposed remodeling project for the Fellowship Hall. She showed samples of colors, materials, etc. and provided a copy of the proposed budget for this project. The materials include corrugated steel panels, brick/plaster trim, new flooring, chandeliers, prayer cushions, new windows and other amenities to improve the sound and aesthetics of this worship center/fellowship area. In addition to the windows in the Fellowship Hall, matching new windows would be installed in the kitchen. The lower portion of the windows would be covered with a window film. The top panel would not include the film so as to allow the room to have the advantage of some natural light. The project was proposed to begin early in 2009, with the intent of having it finished prior to our celebration of Asbury's 50th anniversary. Jay Fraxedas made a motion to accept a proposal to move forward with this project, subject to financing considerations. Bill Bowmar provided a second, and the motion passed unanimously. *Note: Economic condition changes subsequent to the Laity Council meeting have resulted in a decision to postpone this project until such time as Asbury's financial situation is sufficiently clear and stable. We will concentrate at this time on meeting the 2008 and 2009 budget and on completion of the HVAC project.*

Kevin Smith provided a copy of the estimated expenses for the 2009 Proposed Budget. The income cannot be projected until our Stewardship Campaign is completed at the end of October. Kevin also stated that we do not yet have enough funds and/or pledges to completely pay for the new HVAC systems which are being installed. The Laity Council agreed to use an electronic ballot to vote on the 2009 Budget once it is available.

Nancy Trinchitella updated our progress on the new HVAC systems. Work has been completed in Rooms 14, 15, 16 and 17 as well as in the kitchen and the choir room. The Jackson Street units will be installed so that the temperature can be adjusted one room at a time. The next installation will include the chapel, parlor and sanctuary. The entire project is expected to be completed by the end of October.

Phyllis spoke about the congregational goals and strategies, including the growth and success of the Honor the Badge event. She commended members of our youth for their help at this event. Dr. Scott Harris noted that we received a plaque from the Fire and Police Departments. This was presented to our congregation during the worship services on Sunday, September 28th. Scott also stated that the Fire Chief suggested we may see him more frequently in our sanctuary.

Scott announced that the Stewardship Campaign will begin on Sunday, October 5th and gave an explanation of its various components. A Missions Fair will be held on November 2nd, followed by a church-wide picnic. Pledge cards should be returned by November 9th. Our Lay Leader, Dr. Paul Schumacher, will give an update on the success of the campaign at all three worship services on November 16th.

Scott shared the current status of a Counseling Center on Asbury's campus. The Center would serve those persons who need counseling beyond what the pastors are trained to offer. Rooms 12 and 13 will be emptied and prepared for use by this ministry. One room will serve as a reception area for those waiting to see a counselor, and the other will be used by the client in private consultation with the counselor. Scott has identified a counselor who could be on campus at appointed times for one or two days per week. The goal is to have this ministry in place by January 1st, 2009. Scott hopes to acquire funding for necessary fixtures (furniture, telephone, etc.) through the March to the Manger program in December.

Bill Bowmar announced that the United Methodist Men will hold their annual golfing fundraiser on October 18th. One of their immediate projects is to help the Single Parent Ministry provide Thanksgiving meals for 112 families, at a cost of \$40 per family.

Phyllis announced that Wanda Brown and the other Coaches will be rotating off of the Laity Council at the end of the year and thanked them for their service. All other Laity Council members have agreed to serve another year.

Jay moved that the meeting be adjourned, with Bill providing a second.

Scott closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerry McDonald, Acting Secretary