

LAITY COUNCIL MINUTES – MAY 18, 2009

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

The minutes of the last meeting (February 2, 2009) stand as written.

OLD BUSINESS:

Small Groups: Pastor Scott reported that the committee on the Small Groups Emphasis has been expanded to include Ron Hofer, Todd Russell, Brian Pikalow, and Teresa Cunningham in addition to Peggy Scott and Jeanne Farmer.

Peggy and Jeanne attended a local seminar (held at Asbury Seminary) and picked up curriculum. Jeanne and Peggy also went to Atlanta for training. They have decided to use the Willow Creek model to provide leadership expectations and to birth new groups out of those existing already. “The Purpose Driven Life” from Saddleback Church will be presented as a 40-day campaign next Lent. Asbury has a subscription to “Purpose Driven Curriculum” that is quarterly with visual attachments.

Small group leaders will be selected for the Fall, and there will be training event in the Fall led by Mike Henderson from Northland Church. The Curriculum Fair was cancelled until after the training event.

Pastor Scott will ask Bishop Whitaker to include mention of the Small Group Emphasis during his sermon at our 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Education Committee: Enrich U. will not meet again until June. Next on the Committee’s agenda are the development of their vision and mission statements and the recruiting of small group leaders.

50th Anniversary Celebration: Pastor Scott unveiled the poster of Jesus made with everyone’s portraits. The Pictorial Committee will pass out the new directory Saturday during our Anniversary events and Sunday after church. (They came in last week and have been locked up since!) If anyone needs an extra, they will be available for \$10.00. The Committee was given a big round of applause.

There will be one more anniversary meeting (tomorrow at 1:30 pm.). 160 tickets have already been sold for Sunday’s dinner.

Carla Smith has tremendous activities for kids planned to start at 10:00 am. UMM will be cooking hot dogs and serving watermelon and drinks. The time capsule (committee headed by Jim Hancock) will be buried on Saturday near the fountain. Thanks to Paul Schumacher for getting the capsule. The Sanctuary at 1:00 pm on Saturday will be the location for singing led by Tom Russell and for reminiscences by former pastors and associate pastors. Sunday at 10:00 am

will be the Bishop's reception, with the worship service beginning at 10:30 am. and featuring music presented by the various choirs and groups and "Stump the Bishop" with the children.

We will need to double the helpers for Children's Church. The Youth will be parking lot volunteers. Council members were urged to park at the bank, Langston Hess, or in City Parking to leave room for visitors and the elderly or infirm.

After the service there will be a short consecration of the new Counseling Center in the courtyard, with the Bishop offering a prayer. Then we will flow into Fellowship Hall (where 150 can be seated), and nearby classrooms for lunch.

Jim Hancock will be on hand Sunday for the history of Asbury that will be in the Welcome Friends classroom. This display also will be open on Saturday, when tours of the facilities and the Sanctuary stained glass windows will occur.

The church office will be closed Monday for Memorial Day.

Fighting Hunger: Bruce Snyder reported at our goal had been 3,000 items of food to distribute to the local food banks. By the end of the week we should have 2,500 items. Volume is measured in individual cans. Pastor Scott shared that our next phase of fighting hunger in our community would be for all members of the Asbury family to save coins (and bills) in June, July, and August and bring them in beginning in August to pour into a container in the church for collection. We need to keep the issue of hunger before the congregation; we don't want to become complacent about this significant need.

Welcome Center: Gerry McDonald has been working diligently to recruit volunteers to staff the Welcome Center in the Narthex each week beginning at 9:15 am. After discussion, a suggestion had been made that the Sunday School class that does the Fellowship Time clean-up also serve at the Welcome Center on that day. Classes would be asked to assign at least two people to staff the Welcome Center so that one could escort visitors as needed while the other person would continue to be available to answer questions. If there was a need to escort other visitors during the time that only one person was staffing the Center that person could ask someone from the Open Door class or someone in the Narthex or Sanctuary to do the escort duties. There is an established rotation for the Fellowship Time clean-up, and that same list would function for the Welcome Center. The Chancel Choir has the months of January and July, and the Youth have volunteered to help them. Gerry has written up guidelines to help those serving and has a sign-up sheet for the next few months.

Counseling Center: The consecration of the center by the Bishop will take place on Sunday after the Worship Service. (See Above)

NEW BUSINESS:

Volunteer Celebration: This will be held Wednesday, May 2 as our annual thanks to all volunteers. A letter was sent last week inviting the volunteers to attend at 7:00 pm. Each staff member will bring two desserts to serve the volunteers. At 7:30 pm. there will be a "staff song,"

with a show to follow the song. Chalk Artist Jason Palmisano will inspire everyone. The event will end at 8:30 pm. A nursery will be provided. Everyone who will be attending needs to RSVP.

Planned Giving: Finance Committee Chair Kevin Smith indicated that a Planned Giving emphasis has been discussed in the past but hasn't gotten off the ground before at Asbury. Many churches and other organizations have Planned Giving programs that allow members to provide for the church through wills and trusts. The Finance Committee currently is working with Catherine Davey to arrange a presentation. The "fund" would have Conference oversight and would need to have approval from the Laity Council before being voted upon at the Charge Conference. The Finance Committee then would promote the concept once it has approval.

UPDATES:

Finance: Kevin Smith, reported we are slightly behind on our giving but close to what has been projected. We are progressing fairly well with our reduced budget. The status of the HVAC project is that we will pay \$4,500 to the contractor upon successful final inspection of the system. There may be \$15-20,000 more needed. We are still short \$6,500 of what was pledged, but we haven't had to use the line of credit as yet. A letter will be sent at the end of May to encourage monthly giving towards this project.

Trustees: Church Administrator Nancy Trinchitella reported that the Trustees approved the UMM workday. 20-25 people participated, and another day will be needed to do the inside of the windows. Kudos were expressed to Amber Smigielski, who was the only youth and the only woman in attendance. However, the Altar Guild was busy cleaning inside the Sanctuary at the same time! Repair and repainting are need on the Jackson Street side due to a moisture problem.

Staff-Parish Relations: Chair Derek Scott reported that Marvin Golden has been hired as the new housekeeper and started today. There will be a farewell reception for Pastor Molly on June 7th. An invitation letter has already been mailed and provides the opportunity to make a love offering.

NEW BUSINESS:

Comments from Pastor Scott:

Strategic Planning for the Future: Pastor Scott had a breakfast meeting with Paul Schumacher to discuss this. There is no space for any more 9:30 am. Sunday School classes. We have had very steady growth pattern. We need to answer some questions: What will our needs be in 10 years? Do we need to tear down facilities and start over? Do we need to rebuild portions of our building? What do we do about parking? What are the demographic trends? What was the last 5 years growth in the community and the church? What are our giving trends? We also have Wednesday night classroom challenges. Our facility is used every night. What are we allowed to do and change by the city? The Council was asked to suggest names of persons who would be helpful in reviewing these needs/opportunities.

Top 10% of Conference: Asbury has been recognized as in the top 10% of churches in our Conference in terms of “ministry.” Asbury was started as a mission of Winter Park First United Methodist Church. We have been courted to start a new congregation, and we are exploring that possibility. This is a significant emphasis in our Conference right now, and District Superintendent Wayne Wiatt is very open to our exploration. Mont Duncan, Director of New Church Development, has been invited to meet with us on May 9th to explore this topic more fully. He will meet with the Laity Council after the 11:00 am. service. The Laity Council ultimately will vote on this. We will need to understand all of the implications and commitments.

OTHER:

UMW: UMW Representative Gerry McDonald reported that the Mother/Daughter banquet was a sell –out. Peggy May was the hit of the fashion show! Evelyn Rupp was named “Woman of the Year.”

UMM: UMM President Bill Bowmar reported that there was an anonymous donation of \$100 for the food for the 50th Anniversary Celebration. There may be a watermelon seed spitting contest! The Father/Son banquet on June 4th will feature Jack Youngblood (former University of Florida and professional football player) as speaker. There is a limit of 125 people. Tickets will be sold by the church office and UMM board members. Laity Council members were encouraged to buy tickets early. The Mission Team will be cooking, with UMW and female youth serving and helping the cooks. There will also be a silent auction and autographed footballs. Ham and chicken are on the menu.

Missions: Missions Chair Dianna Bates reported that all monies given to the Missions Committee for cooking for the UMW and UMM will be going back into the kitchen for cabinets, etc. The Committee needs some new helpers for IHN this time since many Open Door class members will be gone and the Mission Team will be at AIM. Mel Frye will be taking the Thursday night cooking duties. This time the youth will go Wednesday night with pizza and will be available to play with the children. A couple is still needed to stay on Friday night as hosts (from 8:00 pm. to 8:00 am.).

Youth: Youth Director Greg Johnson reported that the youth will be the Lay Readers on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Carla Smith has worked with getting acolytes and training them for the 8:15 am. and 11:00 am. services. Lots of Tweeners are moving up on May 31st. The High School graduates will be honored in June. The Youth are looking forward to Mountain Top, Surf Camp, Youth Week, and Youth Sunday. The youth also want to be involved in other aspects of church life, so Laity Council members were asked to contact Greg with any opportunities or suggestions. Youth will continue through the summer on Wednesday night, and there will be many activities planned throughout the summer as well. In the fall, we will begin meeting on Sunday evenings.

Other: Brian Pikalow announced that George McDonald is now a volunteer co-worship leader with Lisa Wallace. Each will lead for two weeks per month.

Bruce Snyder was given a round of applause or all of the “extras” he does around the church.

Our next meeting will be Monday, August 3rd.

Pastor Brian Pikalow closed the evening in prayer at 7:56 pm.

Those in attendance: Phyllis Klock, David Brown, Gerry McDonald, Dianna Bates, Scott Harris, Kevin Smith, Nancy Trinchitella, Tom Russell, Brian Pikalow, Amber Smigielski, Bruce Snyder, Derek Scott, Dennis Stephenson, Paul Schumacher, Greg Johnson, Bill Bowmar, Karissa Workman, Hillary Swengel.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Hillary Swengel
Recording Secretary