

MINUTES 8/3/09 LAITY COUNCIL MEETING

In attendance: Dave Brown, Nancy Trinchitella, Dianna Bates, Greg Johnson, Jerri Rickard, Dennis Stevenson, Derek Scott, Gerry McDonald, Jeanne Farmer, Bruce Snyder, Carla Smith, Paul Schumacher, Peggy Harris, Scott Harris, Phyllis Klock, Brian Pikalow, Karissa Workman, Hillary Swengel.

The opening prayer was given by Senior Pastor Dr. V. Scott Harris at 6:45pm.

The minutes of the last meeting (5/18/09) were accepted as presented.

A big round of applause was given to Carla Smith for all of her efforts.

OLD BUSINESS:

Small Group Emphasis was presented by Jeanne Farmer and Peggy Harris. Jeanne passed around some handouts that had been developed to give background, focus, and direction for this initiative. About a year and a half ago Enrich U determined that they needed to focus and study our small groups, to find ways to improve the ones we had and to develop new ones. They reviewed two of the Willow Creek books entitled “Leading Life Changes Through Small Groups” and “Building a Church of Small Groups”. From these sources they learned more about the right and wrong ways to build small groups. They also went to a conference in April at Saddleback Church. The information they gained was used to structure for Asbury what would work after looking at other groups’ mistakes. Everyone needs support and encouragement. They looked at support programs, coaches and training leaders. They revised their action plan, which then was accepted at an Enrich U meeting last week. Peggy and Jeanne acknowledged the help provided by Mike Henderson.

There will be a 40-day campaign that will begin on February 14th with small groups studying together during Lent. “The Relationship Principles of Jesus” is set up like the 40 Days of Purpose program that we did a few years ago. It seeks to develop spiritual growth and nourishment. Each group will be expected to develop an action plan for day 41. There will be extensive training and follow up support for the leaders. Leadership training will be held in late September and in October. It is anticipated that the group leaders will volunteer/be selected from these training sessions. Groups will meet on different days, at different times and in different places. An important consideration will be offering child care, and there are several options that are being discussed.

Peggy discussed how to measure the numbers and the personal transformation and noted that “Simple Church” is advocated by the United Methodist Church to help develop small groups in a safe, authentic, trusting and long-term relationships environment. If we are able to sustain 12-15 healthy Life Groups, then we will be able to grow more.

It was noted that we have some very active on-going small groups. How will the new program fit in with what is being done already? The response was that we want for these existing groups to continue to flourish. The new Life Groups will meet in homes and will be oriented toward

Bible study. There also may be affinity groups. The new groups will seek to develop trust, continued fellowship and support and on-going study.

A question was raised as to why the plan would include a summer break so soon after getting started. In response it was explained that most other churches have found that the groups are more successful if they follow the school calendar, thus allowing families to honor holidays and time off together. Each group will have the option to continue in their regular format or have other options for summer get togethers.

Jeanne requested that the Laity Council approve the vision and mission statement for the EU Committee on small groups. Dennis Stevenson so moved. Greg Johnson provided a second, and the motion then was accepted unanimously.

New Church Development: Extended Campus was presented by Scott Harris. At the urging of the Conference and the District, we are looking at a new church plant or an extension campus. One location being considered is the 429/414 corridor (west extension), where there is quite a bit of new housing development. Scott and Brian Pikalow will attend a meeting in the next few weeks to determine what monies the Conference and District can offer. Scott also noted that Mont Duncan mentioned during his visit that it wasn't about the monies we get from the Conference rather it was a vision from a healthy church to grow the kingdom much like Winter Park United Methodist had in planting Asbury 50 years ago. Currently leanings are to an extension campus which would share resources at the beginning but over time to become a free-standing, financially self-sufficient church. (New church starts are expected to be financially self-sufficient within three years.) Discussions are still continuing, with the hope that many questions will be answered in time for the "Meet the Pastor" sessions.

Fighting Hunger: Bruce Snyder reminded us to continue collecting coins for the upcoming collection. Paul Schumacher will remind the congregation on the Sunday just before the offering.

Welcome Center. Gerry McDonald indicated that the Sunday School classes for the most part are taking on the task of staffing the Welcome Center in the months when they are scheduled for Fellowship Time clean-up. The schedule has been filled in through December.

NEW BUSINESS:

Maitland First Responders: Dr. Brian Pikalow reported that the Maitland Fire Department had requested a new chaplaincy program to aid first responders if they are having a hard time on the job and to be there for their families as well. This opportunity is consistent with our vision and mission statements and provides a great way to be part of the community. On a rotational basis, Scott and Brian from Asbury, Jeff Jakes and his associate pastor from Orangewood Presbyterian, a representative from local rabbis, the pastor of First Baptist of Maitland and a Catholic priest will be available to the Fire and Police Departments. The chaplains will have special polo shirts. The new program will be rolled out at Honor the Badge.

Honor the Badge: This year's event will be held on Saturday, September 12th. Tom Russell and Jeff Jakes have planned this year's program. Our choir, George McDonald and the Orangewood High School chorus will sing during the program. There will be a bagpiper. Charlie Bertini will play during the service and afterwards with a Dixieland Band in the Fellowship Hall during lunch. The mayor and other dignitaries will be involved. The youth will help with parking. There are Thank You signs for the firefighters and police officers for the entire congregation to sign. These will be given to the two departments as tangible reminders of our appreciation.

Hispanic Ministries: Elizabeth Carrera will be taking a break, but she will be working with Scott on this. The ministry is on hold at the moment, but it probably will begin with a Bible study.

Lay Minister of Congregational Care: It was proposed that Kathleen Martin's position be added to the Laity Council. Jerri Rickard made the motion, and Greg seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Planning Group: Scott, Paul and others are beginning a strategic review of our facilities and future needs. Most of our space is in use most of the time. We need to study our growth patterns by looking at new member growth and at attendance. A new capital campaign may be needed. Carla Smith moved that we establish a formal Planning Group. Dianna Bates seconded the motion which then passed.

UPDATES:

Finance Committee: Nancy Trinchitella reported for Kevin Smith that as of yesterday our giving is \$7,000 behind last year. Our budget is less this year, and thus we are remaining on budget. We are only about \$200 behind in what we've already paid for on the HVAC project. However, there are two additional HVAC bills pending for a total of about \$12,000. Mostly to Paul Cross' research and diligence, we are significantly under the \$200,000 original estimate. To date we have not had to borrow to fund the HVAC project. Also, Nancy reported that the Finance Committee has requested that the various committees submit their 2010 budget proposals by September 15th so that the Finance Committee can share this budget with the Council at its next meeting.

Trustees: Nancy Trinchitella reported for Mike Lee on the completion of duct work and on the need to re-roof the two flat roof areas on either side of Sanctuary.

Staff-Parish: Derek Scott reported that the staff is stable. The 2010 budget will include a proposal for a part-time staff person to coordinate the Life Groups.

UMM: Phyllis Klock reported for Bill Bowmar regarding the Leesburg Retreat and the golf tournament.

Youth: Greg Johnson reported that the emphasis for youth will move from Wednesday night to Sunday night beginning on August 30th with a staff vs. youth volleyball game. There will also be

a cookout in the parking lot, and everyone is invited to attend. Bible study will be available to students who are on campus during WNL. Youth Week will begin on August 9th, with August 16th as Youth Sunday. There will be a carwash Saturday from noon until 4:00 pm at M&I Bank. Ten youth attended Surf Camp, spending four days in Cocoa and one in South Daytona. Paul thanked Greg for his work with the Youth. Greg responded that his roots are here and that he is honored and proud to be working with the Youth. He also thanked everyone who has been so supportive.

Missions: Dianna Bates thanked the youth for helping with IHN on Wednesday evening at Community Church of Christ, along with the Tweeners and the Open Door class.

Pastor Brian Pikalow closed the meeting with prayer at 7:48pm.