

Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

October 18th, 2012

6:30 P.M.

Call to Order Lori called the meeting to order at 6:30.

Introductions Everyone introduced themselves. In attendance: Pastor Sunny, Jon Montgomery (Micah), Peggy Gire (Staff Parish), Carolyn Meneely (Finance), Jim Gurga (Trustees), Edie Machonis (Nominations), John Machonis (Finance), Steve Miller (UMM/WTTF), Ian Rogenski (Stewardship), Dan Murray (Stewardship), Marianne Rogenski (Youth), Marshall Nystrom (UMM/WTTF), Rich Hill (Finance), Jerry McDaniel (Newsletter), Betty Miller, JoAnne Gregorash (Lay Leader), Bruce Bedingfield (Caring Ministries), Cathy Mottar (Ad Council Co-chair, UMW), Lori Randall (Ad Council Co-chair), Melinda Taylor (Secretary, UMW).

Opening Prayer Cathy opened with a prayer.

Tentative Special Presentation on Harvest 2020 and Net Church - Marshall introduced Eric Blanchford & Kevin Clark from the Net Church. Kevin said that 7 years ago they were seminary roommates, and talked about what they would like to see in a church. Where are the people our age? Why aren't they in church now? After graduation was put on the back burner. Eric was a 3-point pastor, Kevin opened a Christian restaurant. A mutual friend, a Methodist pastor, approached Kevin about becoming a Methodist pastor and planting a church in Rockford. Met with district superintendent who also had a vision about planting a church geared toward young people (20s and 30s). Was approved by bishop, and they moved forward. In July, they officially started, working to create "hot spots" all over city of Rockford, 10-15 people at a time in homes, creating relationships with each other and God. In August, started with first "hot spot", have about 30 people so far in 3 locations. Related stories about individuals they have reached so far, including a self-proclaimed "pagan" who became interested. Have done service projects. One goal is to get all the house churches together for a worship service.. Cathy explained that Sunny, Julie Gorvett, and herself, had met Eric earlier. Eric spoke in June to UMW, which Marshall & Jim Naatz attended; they suggested that Eric & Kevin come speak to Ad Council.

They answered questions from the group. They want to continue the model of house churches, not create a church with a building. They value mission, and want the \$ to go there rather than into a building; 35% of budget automatically goes out into mission, with a goal of 50%. Kevin works part-time at the YMCA as a way to meet people, also will have first worship service there. Communicate mostly through texts and Facebook ([facebook.com/thenetchurch](https://www.facebook.com/thenetchurch)). Let people know that gathering together is a form of worship.

Eric and Kevin left.

Cathy said that UMW has contributed to this church. We can donate \$12,000 over 3 years to Harvest 20/20, and maybe we can learn through them how to reach the 20-somethings in our church. We have contributed \$1000 already between UMW and UMM. Eric & Kevin only earn \$35,000 per year; they need to raise the funds on their own. Sunny brought up that ORUMC started up with seed money from others; we can now pass that on. Ian asked if this is something we should do now, or work into 2013-2015 budget? Bruce said that we give to Rainbow Covenant over several spectrums (\$1500), plus \$1500 more in Caring Ministries. Marshall explained that we can sponsor them through Harvest 20/20 only if we commit to a total of \$12,000. Rich asked if we could sponsor them directly for any amount (yes). Discussion about whether this is a Caring Ministries decision, or a general Ad Council decision. John noted that Caring Ministries has only a small budget to allocate over the rainbow. Ian moved that ORUMC support the Net Church with our funds as we are able, as well as prayers. Bruce seconded. UMW and UMM are going to support the Net Church on their own. Discussed having the men come back to present to the entire congregation. Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Devotions – Julie or Cathy will do next meeting.

Administration

- Jerry reminded everyone to review the calendar and send any changes to Donna. Articles are due for the newsletter (thanks, Marianne, for already getting it in). Was emailed out earlier today.
- Carolyn moved that the September minutes be approved as written; Jon seconded. Approved on a voice vote.

Required Committee Reports

- Senior Pastor's Report Sunny reported that many people in the congregation are struggling, please pray for them. Charge conference is Nov 15th at 7:00; reports are due in to Donna by Oct 29th. All are invited to attend.
- Youth Director's Report – Marianne discussed items on emailed report (see below).
- Staff Parish - Peggy discussed items on emailed report. Few changes to the Safe Sanctuary document. Peggy moved that we accept the revised Safe Sanctuary document, Betty seconded. Discussion – how is it different? Staff person in Education ministry will oversee the process instead of the Director of Education ministry. Approved unanimously on a voice vote.
- Finance – Rich reported we are at a small surplus YTD. Regular envelope giving is down 9% against budget, 10% is the norm, would still like to see it at 100% of pledge. Expenses are also down against budget, mostly Director of Education being gone, and also good stewardship among all committees. Good weather has kept utilities and snow removal costs down. SPRC still has positions open, looking for replacements. Are going through 2013 budget cycle, please return your committee's budget by end of month. Stewardship has good program going right now. Will have a preliminary budget for Charge Conference. Finance accounting system has had glitches, should be fixed with update later in the month. Have updated reimbursement form requiring approval from the appropriate committee chair for amounts over \$100, and requiring proper account coding. Trying to align the different accounting tasks being done by various volunteers. Carolyn added that Education, SPRC, Stewardship, Worship, Youth, Trustees have submitted budgets, but still need Finance, Office, Music, Tech, Caring Ministries.

Steve asked for clarification about budget – we are balanced because we don't have a Director of Education, but we are still looking to replace her. Sunny responded that we do not want to stress out a new person with that point; position is included in SPRC budget. Said she cannot keep up with the quality of education, getting burnt out, need to replace her. Discussion about Rev Elizabeth being told that her salary was a reason for the deficit. Group agreed that the budget is a whole, not one person that created a deficit.

Cathy asked if a budget could be ready by December, Carolyn responded that it's usually been January because pledges trickle in through December.

Ian the leadership give their pledge tonight.

- Trustees – Jim said that the budget is \$12,000 less than last year. Lots of work investigating lower rates for utilities and cable. Have had low snow costs. There are some things on this building that need to be upgraded that will be expensive. Have a great bunch of workers, but will need some structural work. Roof is leaking again. Insurance company has requested that we build a rail around the balcony, will be done in January. Most repairs are done in house. Have to meet building codes. Steve asked if we have been accruing for these coming expenses, Rich said we only have \$15,000 set aside for capital expenditures. Bruce said we could sell the church and just do "hot spots" 😊.
- Nominations – Edie said they are making progress, pretty much fully staffed, 2 more for Finance, need one for nominations. In good shape.

Stewardship – Report on Online Giving. Ian said that at the end of last year, moved to begin online giving, and needed to review at end of summer. The analysis says we should continue. Online givers give more per household, have exceeded pledged giving, increased over 2011. Costs have been below budget. Took survey, people love consistency, some asked about credit card giving. Most “set and forget”, but one family goes online each week and gives for that week. Analyzed giving through end of August. There are 107 traditional givers and 24 online givers. Traditional givers are giving less on average and in total vs. 2011, while online givers are increasing in both. Ian thinks that the difference is attributable to frequency – not missing weeks when gone, etc. Maybe the cutoff of August did not allow the traditional givers to catch up from summer vacations. Consistency a big factor, enables easy regular giving. He projects that we will spend \$455 by end of year, budgeted \$1000 (comparison: spend \$288 on envelopes). Ian moved, Steve seconded, that we continue the online giving. Passed unanimously by voice vote.

Dan M said that online giving has been beneficial, would like to broaden it to include debit/credit card option. The cost is about 4% of income. If we sign up by end of month, the \$50 sign fee is waived. Could have special event tickets added, any other special giving. Would like to focus marketing on things like the sound system, people could give one-time with credit cards, including friends outside the church. JoAnne brought up that using a credit card asks people to go into debt, Marshall responded that people could just give credit card number rather than bank account info. Dan moved that we add debit and credit card giving options for the first six months of 2013, to be monitored and reviewed through finance after six months, Jon seconded. Discussion about costs and usage (such as checking account givers going to credit card giving, increasing costs). Ian discussed the view of cash-based living, vs the convenience to people outside the church especially being able to contribute to special events. John brought up that givers need to be made aware that a \$100 gift nets out to \$96 to the church. Ian said that givers would be given the option to check a box and add \$4 to cover the costs. Credit card info could be kept on file for recurring giver or as a one-time event. Ian clarified that Vanco is certified for security at the highest level. Jerry asked, was answered, credit card giving would be reported to church the same as current online giving. Dan clarified that the % taken off is given, but would probably average out to 4% based upon the expected giving. Passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Member Committee reports

- Christian Corner – no report
- Education - Cathy read the brief emailed report: Sunday school got started strongly. We've got extra curriculum for this year.
Advent Program this year will be on Saturday, 12/1, from 4pm-5:30pm
- Evangelism – Cathy read the brief emailed report: Ronda Wilkes & Sunny will be meeting to organize and formulate the purpose & process of the committee for the future.
- Lay Leader – JoAnne had no report.
- Memorial Committee – John read emailed report below.
- Micah Ministries – Jon said we could read emailed report below.
- Music – no report
- UMM – Steve said they sold 112 pizzas. Retreat starts tomorrow.
- UMW – Melinda reported that 26 women attended the Women of Faith 2 weeks ago. Tennis is scheduled for Monday, but has been rescheduled 4 times so far. Nov 16 movie night at Mottars (for Fully Alive). Next meeting a potluck dinner on Dec 4; bring a wrapped white elephant gift.
- Worship – JoAnne said Jill asked her to report they will meet this Saturday. Moving toward more traditional at 9:00, more contemporary at 10:30.
- WTTF – Marshall said Ashley Balk has donated a computer, Dan Wilkes will help with website. Steve said sound system fundraising continues.
- Caring Ministries – Bruce said they are tentatively meeting on Thurs, Nov 29, when they will be considering Rainbow Covenant distributions. Found the initial Net Church presentation very joyful. Mentioned that Willow Creek is de-emphasizing small groups, moving toward groups of about 100 by neighborhood.

Next Meeting in November 15th – Annual Charge Conference at 7:00 p.m.

Should we have a December meeting? Traditionally, do not meet then. Would be Dec 20th. All agreed to have next regular meeting on January 17, 2013.

Steve moved that we move location back to Wesley Hall where we can sit across from each other, less heat/air conditioning, and can hear better. JoAnne seconded. Discussion – will need to have people help set-up. Do we want to meet at 6:15 to help with set-up? Background: at meeting 2 months ago, people weren't respectful, some people were going to not come back. Having meeting in sanctuary emphasized that we are doing God's business. May have been because of contentious issues rather than the venue. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote. (Note: next meeting in here because of charge conference).

Eric and Kevin will return on Dec. 2 to preach/share about the Net Church. Cathy asked that we have a survey about whether our church wants to support their mission.

Closing Prayer at 8:40 in narthex.

Emailed reports:

Micah

October 17, 2012 update

We had a Micah brainstorming meeting Sept 26th. ,
We discussed our current status and what we want to do this year.
Here are the highlights.

We will maintain:

- Free Trade Coffee (second Sunday of the month)
- Heifer (Robyn Gatti and Julie Kuhn will not be able to lead Heifer, so we will need to find someone to head up the Heifer drive conducted during December)
- Garden
- Offering of Letters (in March 2013)
- provide education or other support for other groups or caring ministries as requested (Youth, CROP, etc.)

We will add the following:

- Invite Chris Pierson for a Micah meeting in October or November to share the current state of social justice issues and what the Methodist community is doing. This will be announced and be open to the entire congregation once planned.
- Develop a Micah Ministries Brochure similar to the caring ministries
- Have a Micah Ministry/Social justice worship service (in Fall 2013, to be clarified with Pastor Sunny in 2013)
- Assist Youth with a service trip to the urban farm and a micro loans display

LAST but not least, there is an excellent documentary just released about the poverty line (filmed in DuPage and Cook County). It is called The Line. I recommend watching it: <http://www.thelinemovie.com/>.

I will email all of you once the meeting with Chris is planned and when a draft of the brochure is ready for review.

Jon Montgomery

SPRC

Here are the highlights of the SPRC report for Thursday's Ad Council meeting:

1. The Safe Sanctuary Document has been approved and needs to be accepted by Ad Council.
2. All Staff Evaluations have been completed and are stored in the Pastor's office,

* the God Bless Bulletin Board has a new face this fall as we honor the many activities around the church, particularly Summer activities.

* All Job Descriptions are finalized and stored in Pastor's office.

* the open organist position has been posted on three job search websites and there has been no response. Cathy Scott has called Lynne Abraham (the only candidate that we have at this time) and made arrangements for her to substitute for Choir practice and Sunday services in the month of November as part of the audition process.

Peggy Gire

Memorial Committee

Report 10/17/12

From June through September, \$885 was received in memory of Don Wiebel, requested by the family and by many of the donors to be used for CCCC. A check for that amount was issued to CCCC 9/26, adding to the \$505 they received directly from donors in Don's memory.

We have also received \$100 in July and Sept in memory of Gernith Streu and Iona Branch. Funds in memory of Jim Evitts have not all been tallied yet but will exceed \$900.

On Sunday 11/4 we will consecrate the gifts that were realized in 2012.

We met 9/24, will meet again 10/25 then January 25. Committee members will rotate Ad Council representation.

Julie Kuhn

Youth

*Kids Hope is going well and moving along. Ron Gorvett and I, along with Annette Forster from Kids Hope, went to Blackwell School last Wednesday and presented the program to the teachers. The entire school community seems to be very excited about this! There will be an announcement and more info this Sunday.

*Youth group continues to go well. This Sunday will be a guest speaker and the 28th the youth go to serve at the soup kitchen

*On December 7-8 there will be a lockin for the sr. high youth—and jr. high youth will be there Friday night. As part of this we will be doing many service projects—things that can be done in the church and then donated to various places.

I think that is it!

Thanks,
Marianne