

Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

March 21st, 2013

Lori called the meeting to order at 6:30.

Introductions Lori Randall - co-chair, Melinda Taylor - secretary, Glen Hollingsworth - nominations, Ian Rogenski – Stewardship, Marianne Rogenski – youth & worship, Julie Gorvett – lay leader, Kim Maher – education, JoAnne Gregorash – lay leader, Jerry McDaniel – newsletter, Steve Miller – UMM & WTTF, Julie Kuhn - memorial, Jeff Greenwalt - SPRC (came at 6:45, left after his report). Jeff Oster (trustees) came at 7:00, Bruce Bedingfield (caring ministries) came at 7:25.

Opening Prayer Lori opened with a prayer.

Lori will ask Jim Naatz if he can do the devotions next month.

Administration

Calendars were passed out for review; UMW on April 4th was added. Jerry noted that he has received a number of articles for the newsletter already.

Julie said that Tom Kuhn's name was spelled wrong in February's minutes. With that correction, Julie moved, Marianne seconded, that the minutes be approved as corrected; passed on voice vote.

Required Committee Reports

Senior Pastor's Report (Absent) – Melinda read the report below.

Youth Director's Report – Marianne presented the report below. She then moved that we accept Ron Zemke's proposal to have a production of Godspell again this summer at ORUMC; several of the previous participants will be helping to direct/run it. It will cost about \$1500 in license and royalty fees; there should still be some money left in the Voices of Light fund (if not, we could use youth money for start-up). They would charge \$10/ticket. If there is a profit, it would go toward the sound system. The cast will be open to any teen who can commit to the necessary rehearsals/performances (2-4 days/week). August 1-3 are the tentative performance dates. Glen seconded. Passed on unanimous voice vote.

Staff Parish - Jeff Greenwalt reported that they are looking to fill the Christian Education position in some manner. They had a meeting last Friday. He has talked with Marianne about adding hours to her current position. Sunny suggested that we use the new Education leaders for these responsibilities (partly because of shortage of money, partly to increase opportunities for lay leadership). Jeff expressed some concern about past experiences where volunteers have burnt out, and wants to be sure that this important position is filled properly, though he also recognizes that Sunny has some leeway as a pastor. Ian brought up that Sunny gave pushback about having Shelomi Gomes join Stewardship without going through Nominations; how did Ali and Jane get to be co-leaders of Education without going through the process? Conversation about whether they should go through an interview process, just as we would for a paid position, or at least a "soft" interview process. Steve brought up that it was a paid position when we had the money, so it's an important position. Marianne noted that Ali was approved at Charge Conference as a member of Education (but not as chair). Jeff said that Sunny has expressed the desire to fill positions with laity when they express an interest rather

than making it a paid position. The big issue was that it did not go through Nominations, was a unilateral decision by Sunny. Marianne said that she is concerned about Sunday School – VERY small right now, so not many feeding into the youth group. Next year, only 1-2 sixth graders moving up to the youth group. She would rather have a staff member to help build up the Sunday School program. Julie brought up that there are two major concerns – finance (pay apportionments) vs. education leader (staff member). Discussion that Sunny has circumvented processes she has put into place or requested before this issue, such as requirement that she be present to have Ad Council meeting. Discussed that Nominations should vet volunteers, then present suggested members to the respective committees, who would then have the final approval. Jeff also brought up that Sunny is trying to focus on worship rather than administration; how is that going? Please let him know. Jeff will discuss the process regarding the co-chairs with Sunny; we want them to go through Nominations, who will then determine if they are the right people for the positions. Note: no one is saying these two are not right for the positions, just haven't had the opportunity to talk with them. Marianne also noted that the Safe Sanctuary policy would also require that the adults need to be regular attenders for six months before working with youth.

Finance – Melinda read the report below. Jerry & Ian clarified the software limitations. Jerry said that if we get close to 2000 individual donations by June 30, we will look into a new software program.

Trustees – Jeff Oster said they have created a committee of four individuals to look into the roof maintenance, assess the condition and how to proceed. It's causing more damage to walls and windows. Have repaired various electrical problems.

Nominations – Glen moved on behalf of Nominations that Shelomi Gomes and Terry Kitchall be added to Stewardship Committee under class of 2015, JoAnne seconded. Ian commented that he does not know Terry. Marianne said he has been coming for at least ten years (was in last directory). Passed on unanimous voice vote.

Caring Ministries - none
Christian Corner – none

Education - Kim said that on Palm Sunday the children will bring in the palms, then there will be a special service for the kids. On Easter, there will be an Easter egg hunt between services. VBS will be July 15-18 from 5 – 8:30 for kids 5 years old to 6th grade. Will be a poster in the narthex, will use VBS as an outreach program. Marianne commented that she needs to work with Education for Education Sunday.

Evangelism – covered in Sunny's email.
Lay Leader – no news

Memorial Committee – Julie said that the meeting was moved to April 11. There are various funds in different people's names, so please give wish list to committee. One large fund was given to the Sound System. They have also received one wish list request so far. Will talk with Karen Moore about Music possibilities.

Micah Ministries – Melinda read Jon's report below.

Music - none
Stewardship – none

UMM – Steve reminded us that they have the possibility in participating in a potato drop; waiting to hear about whether there is a need from soup kitchen, Hanover Township, or Holy Spirit, still time, but needs to know soon to put in a reservation.

UMW – Melinda said that the UMW potluck meeting was changed to April 4. Marianne noted that ASP will have a fundraiser with Village Tavern the same day, from 11am -11pm; had scheduled previously.

Worship – Marianne reported that a task force (Julie Gorvett, Ian Rogenski, Steve Miller, Cathy Scott, Jill Wood-Naatz) has created a worship survey. After the April 21 & 28 services, which will be shortened by ten minutes, the congregation will take the survey. Will announce a couple of weeks ahead, music will be playing while survey is being filled out. After those dates, will be available online. Will be able to take online until May 12th. Will be asked not to take multiple times (even though this is Chicago ☺). Discussed summer worship. Want to have one service at 10:00 a.m., adult Sunday School will be available at 9:00 (café format, discussion and a little bit of music). Marianne on behalf of worship moved that between Memorial Day & Labor Day, we have one service at 10:00 with adult Sunday School at 9:00, Steve seconded. It will be blended contemporary and traditional, dependent upon the results of the survey. Passed unanimously on a voice vote. Marianne added that they hope that everyone 12 and up takes the survey. What about those who are no longer attending? There will be a mailing/email blast going out to everyone.

Jerry received info about the Elgin Community Crisis Center outlining the responsibilities of the person who takes charge; Bruce noted that the ministry only survives if someone has a passion for it. Jerry asked Steve to take photos of the new members on Sunday; he will try.

WTTF – Steve said that the wireless issues have been mostly corrected with equipment donated by Steve and Ivan Gomes. Jerry & Steve are looking at buying and installing a backup drive; Ian said he will donate a 1T backup drive. There will be more regular backups this way. There are daily backups, but want to have more frequent total backups to have offsite.

Bruce reported that they met on Feb 28 (Sunny, June Guthrie, Bruce) to brainstorm about 50th anniversary celebration in October 2014. Sally Dyke will come & preach, bishop Oscar will be there. Would like past pastors that are able to come, or video a short message. Also discussed celebrating throughout the whole year, having various people preach on different Sundays. June suggested an outing to the barn, for those who remember those days, sort of a founders recognition. Will meet again in April. Anyone who would like to join the committee are welcome. Sunny had suggested that people attend the birthday party with gifts, maybe leave with a goodie bag.

Next regularly scheduled Administrative Council Meeting
April 18th at 6:30 P.M.

Closing Prayer at 8:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Taylor
Secretary

Emailed reports:

PASTOR REPORT TO ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (03/21/2013)

By Rev. Dr. Sunny Ahn

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

- **Pastoral Care:**
 - o Death: Paula Patterson
 - o Need of Special Prayers: Justin Miller, Shirley Witte's father, Sharon Jung's mother, Bea Roden
 - o Sending a "miss-you" text/email Sunday afternoon to those who missed the church ☺
 - o Sending a birthday card.
- **Evangelism:** I am in conversation with Ronda for defining its meaning and practice at ORUMC. Bruce, Ronda, and I are planning for sending out a neighborhood letter during Lent sometimes.
 - o **We will receive 9 new members on Palm Sunday, 3/24.** Those are John Shelton, Terry Kitchell, Kevin & Jean Walters, Steve & Becky Admitis, Jim & Ali Jackson, and Inez Morgan.
- **50th Anniversary Celebration in 2014:** A taskforce team (Bruce Bedingfield, June Guthrie, Mary Knoppel, Pastor Sunny) was formed and met on Thursday, 2/28. The team will be added with more members. The team will be led by Bruce. There will be a meeting in April.
- **Worship:** In the process of designing the worship survey questionnaires
 - o Scout Sunday (3/10)→ Cub Scouts & Girl Scouts who share the facility with us participated.
 - o Social Justice Sunday under the Leadership of Micah Ministry (3/17)→ Rev. Al Sharp, the founding Executive Director of Protestants for the Common Good AND the active Executive Director of the Community Renewal Society, will be the preacher and lead the social justice forum after the 2nd service.
 - o Maundy Thursday Service (3/28, 7:30pm) will be designed around the drama "The Last Supper" directed by Peggy Gire & Sue Zimberoff. It is a joint service with Our Saviour's UMC.
 - o Good Friday Service (3/29, 7:30pm) will be Tenebrae Service led by Ember Days and Young Adults Praise Team.
 - o We will have Easter Cantata Music for Easter Sunday (3/31).
 - o **"The Bible" Sermon Series:** This sermon series runs in conjunction with the epic five-week, 10 hour television miniseries premiering Sunday nights in March

2013 on the History Channel. Each Sunday (9 Sundays starting Sunday, April 7, except the Mother's Day) our teaching will correspond to a clip from this docudrama featuring stories from the Books of Genesis to Revelation.

- o **Multicultural Sunday (4/14) worship and potluck**—Speak Jill Wood-Naatz (worship) or Shelomi Gomes (potluck luncheon) for more information.

EDUCATION

We are in the process of strengthening the Christian Education Committee by equipping laity.

- **For Adults:**

- o Sunday Mornings (2/17-3/31, 9am, Room 2): Study on “Serve with the Heart” led by Marshall Nystrom
- o Monday Evenings (2/18-3/25, 7pm, Room 2): Explores Jesus’ final words as seen and heard through the eyes and ears of those who stood near the cross... led by Ellen Kobylewski.
- o Tuesday Morning Women’s Study (2/19-3/26, 10am, Room 2): Study “Bad Girls in the Bible and learn from their mistakes” led by JoAnne Gregorash.
- o Wednesday Morning Bible Group Reading (10:30am, Home of Inez Morgan)
- o Friday Mornings (2/15-3/8, 10:30am, Parsonage): Ask “Why” questions led by Debbie Hernandez.
- o Job Search Seminar led by Doug Meneely privately for protecting individual’s privacy. So far, I think 3 people got a job after the seminar and another person is in the process of getting a job. Thank you, Doug!
- o **The Mini-series “The Bible” Study:** Our Redeemer’s UMC offers the mini-series “The Bible” study that is broadcasted on the History Channel in March. It is a docudrama featuring stories from the Books of Genesis to Revelation.
 - Tuesdays at 4pm starting April at the home of Pete & Jane Martin. The first session will be 4/2 led by Jane Martin.
 - Sundays at 9am starting April in Room 2. The first session will be 4/7 led by Marshall Nystrom.

- **For Children (age 0-6th Graders) & Jr. High Youth (7th & 8th Graders):**

- o Education Committee met on Wednesday (2/27, 6:30pm) and prepared the Palm Sunday & Easter Sunday & VBS. **Christian Education Committee will be co-chairing by Ali Jackson and Jane Jesudoss. While collaborating/helping each other in leading the education ministry, Ali will focus on the education programs (other than Sunday school) and building relationship with the parents of young children while Jane focusing on Sunday school and building relationship with the teachers and volunteers. WELCOME!**
- o Kids Hope Mentor Program (led by Ron Gorvett): has 7 mentors with 7 mentees. Thank you, Ron!
- o Confirmation Class for the 8th Graders: With Carolyn Meneely, I am leading the class during Lent right after the 10:30am worship till 1pm. As an extra curricula, (1) we will join the Interfaith Bus Tour organized by the Northern Illinois Annual Conference on Saturday (3/23) visiting other faith community. (2) Soup Kitchen on Sunday (3/24), and (3) just a fun outing on Saturday (3/30) to go to the Milwaukee Bucks vs. Oklahoma Thunder Basketball game. Confirmation Sunday will be 5/19.

Youth Director:

1. 30 Hour Famine—we had 35 youth and almost 30 adults there the last weekend of February. The youth raised \$6634! This is the most we have ever raised and well over the \$5000 I challenged them to raise!

In addition we had a World Vision child ambassador come on famine Sunday for the first time and 10 children were sponsored! The World Vision woman commented that for a congregation of our size she only expected 1-2.

2. Microlending—the youth have been lending through Kiva.org since February 2010. We have given 10 loans to people in 8 different countries. 7 have been repaid completely, 1 is 90% repaid as of now, and 2 were just started recently. Our most recent loans are to Wycliffe, a construction contractor from Kenya, and the group of 4 women called Kushinga Chikanga from Zimbabwe who are in the clothing business. The most recent loans are displayed on the bulletin board to the right of the office window.

3. Kids Hope is going well—we have 7 mentors currently each week and have heard from a few others that would like to start either soon or next school year. We will be taking youth to Blackwell on April 2 to help pack some food bags for children that they send it home with—another way that ORUMC is connecting with and helping at the school.

4. The jr. high will be going to the soup kitchen this month and the sr. high will be going in April.

5. Education Sunday on May 19 will include recognition of graduates.

6. March 1-4 Michelle Hill, Stephanie Watson, and myself went to a youth ministry conference in Indianapolis. It was very practical and we came away excited to share things with the rest of the youth ministry team. We will hopefully go back to this same conference next year.

I think that is it!

Thanks,
Marianne

Micah:

On Sunday, March 17, the Micah Ministries Team was pleased to have Rev. Alexander Sharp preach on Social Justice Sunday. He is best known for serving as the founding Executive Director of Protestants for the Common Good (PCG) from May 1996 through June 2012. PCG is an Illinois faith-based education and advocacy organization that is in the final stages of merging with The Community Renewal Society.

Rev. Sharp preached at both services speaking from the scriptures in the liturgy, encouraging us to examine our own heart and seek what God would have us do as Christians to respond to injustices in our world. He adeptly conveyed an understanding that our service has a parallel connection to what we have come to learn and experience in our faith, and urged us to continue to grow in faith and Christian service.

Although our Micah Ministries groups has focused primarily on hunger issues and the effects of video gambling, having Rev. Sharp provided an opportunity to learn and debate other issues, in a Christian setting. After second service, Rev. Sharp held an informal discussion with interested members of our church--18 members, ranging in age from junior high to adults. In this give-and-take discussion, we discussed various perspectives on how we, as Christians, can respond to issues in society around us, namely pain management in medicine, the pros/cons of legalization of medical marijuana, addiction, and the war on drugs. It was important to be able to begin to tackle such pressing and sometimes difficult social issues, with others, in an open forum at church.

Finance:

Attached is the Ad Council Summary for Feb.

Key Points:

- Regular envelop giving for February was right on budget reducing our overall YTD shortfall to 7%- continue to pray that the congregation finds joy in giving
- Other income is impacted by the surprise increase in the value of our cd's (\$59 vs. \$50 k). This does not, in reality, impact our operating income. but is necessary in double entry accounting to balance the books
- Expenses are down 7% from budget impacted by lower snow removal costs and lower youth program expenses (but we should not that the youth program budget expenses was front end loaded with nearly 50% of it's annual expense budgeted to occur in Jan and Feb
- Other expenses appear to be in line with budget
- Overall, outside of the one-time accounting adjustment for the cd's, the operating deficit is in line with expectations with lower expenses offsetting lower income
- Also, due to new limitations of total individual contributions (4000 per year) in our accounting software, the leaders of the church should consider monthly giving instead of weekly to limit the number of individual donations. We are hesitant to make a congregation wide announcement because we know that the amount of giving is strongly correlated to the frequency of giving
- Finally, as expected, with the deficit in our operating budget, we will probably need to transfer money from our money market in April to keep our checking account in balance (no overdrafts). This is something we haven't had to do in at least 2 years but reflects the current operating budget of the church.
- If things continue as they currently are, then we will reduce our apportionment payments in July as expected. It should be noted that only about 50% of the churches in the conference fully fund apportionments.