

Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2014

6:30 P.M.

Present: Jim Naatz, Melinda Taylor, Sunny Ahn, Marianne Rogenski, Jerry McDaniel, Shirley McDaniel, Jon Montgomery, Jim Gurga, Jill Wood-Naatz, Julie Kuhn, Steve Miller, Marshall Nystrom, Jeff Greenwalt, Bruce Bedingfield

Opening: Jim called the meeting to order at 6:35.

Opening Prayer – Jon offered a prayer.

Devotions – Marianne said that “Release the Feast for Children in Need” is the theme of this weekend’s 30-Hour Famine. She read a devotion about parable of the feast & guests, where the original guests decline and the master instead invites the poor, lame, etc. They will be discussing what kind of socially unacceptable things they need to consider doing for the poor, as well as how to fully live. God invites everyone to fully engage every day; there is always room for more. Jill will do next month’s devotions.

Administration – Jill moved, Jim seconded, that the minutes from last month be accepted as written.

Jerry had calendars available; there are some dates that need to be corrected. Reminded everyone to turn in newsletter articles. Nine people have already turned in articles; thanks! There is room for pictures, especially of the famine.

Required Committee Reports

Senior Pastor’s Report

- Sunny reported that Mar 5 Ash Wednesday service begins the Lenten season. March 2 the confirmation class begins, have 10 students so far. Will be held right after the 11:00 service, parents will provide lunch first.

Youth Director’s Report

Marianne reported that 30 Hour Famine is this weekend! They will be using the whole church from 5pm on Friday until 10pm on Saturday. There will be 23 youth participating (5-6 are friends). Sunday is Famine Sunday. If you would like to come for part of the weekend to help out please feel free!

Staff Parish – Jon reported that they met with the new pastor, which was announced on Jan 26 during the service. An article will go into the March newsletter, thanking Sunny & announcing the new pastor. SP received the transition packet, outlining details of things like preparing the parsonage, etc. Jeff said that they will be discussing the details with the appropriate committees. Jim G asked that they talk with Trustees about packages for budget purposes. Jeff said that the packet is determined by the charge conference info. They will attend the Finance meeting next week. Jeff said that they also discussed the “energy feel” of the church, that currently the feeling isn’t very positive. People need to smile more, think about what they like about the church and “bring it” on Sunday so that visitors see the positives of our church. Some disagreed with this assessment. Marianne added that we should remember why

we come to services on Sunday; we as leaders need to project the good points of our church. Jon suggested that whatever small group you are in, that's where you process your concerns, and support each other, and discuss what we can each do individually. There is some uncertainty concerning the transition to a new pastor. Bruce added that we should concentrate on the Jubilee, which implies jubilation; a horrendous winter affecting attendance, leaks, finances – how can we turn things around with jubilation? Jill said that where we put our energy is where things happen, whether happy or unhappy. Julie said that on Sunday we should definitely focus on the positive.

Finance Melinda reported that there was no meeting this month; Rich and Carolyn are out of town, and Melinda had an emergency appointment. There is no official summary report yet, but income was about \$20,700, expenses were \$ 26,600, for a net deficit of \$(5,900). Cash is down about \$8,000. Regular envelope giving was about 90% of budget. Utilities were over double that forecasted due to the extreme cold. Jill commented that the double doors near the side entrance are often not closed; that would help. Also people turn the heat up and forget to turn it back down (don't use hold!) Giving may be down correlating with decreased attendance due to the cold. Jim N asked about Christian Corners' financials, are we getting them quarterly/annually? Jim G will ask Justyna about it.

Trustees – Jim G reported that the new cleaning service will start around March 15th; they are going to have a walk-through of the church and discuss expectations. Cleaning company representatives will meet with the Trustees every quarter to keep on top of things. Jim G said that the Trustees' goal is to spruce up the curb appeal of the church (clean carpets as needed, build a flower box for the front). Marshall commented that the snow removal sometimes causes problems with elderly members. Jim N said that the contractor doesn't shovel unless it's over 2"; sometimes a light snow occurs on Saturday night.

Nominations – no meeting

Anniversary Task Force – Jerry said that they discussed feeding people on Oct 12; maybe box lunches? Another group suggested a potluck. Melinda suggested some sort of "entertainment" with a potluck. All the past pastors are invited to come back for the big celebration. Jim N suggested a slideshow that would keep running (Jerry said he's been asking for photos!) Jim G suggested a dance, maybe ask Ron to bring in some of the kids or music from his group, to make it a true celebration. Jerry said that every month there will be a pastor coming. There will be special guests on Oct 12 (the bishop, district superintendent, maybe past pastors), reunion with some old members. Will be a meal, a slideshow. Jon & Bruce liked the idea of music; will discuss it at the next meeting. Sunny said that the newsletter will have a broad outline, then if anyone has creative input, please share at the Ad Council next meeting. Overall, people agreed on a potluck, perhaps with a sign-up sheet to make sure that there are main dishes. There will be blurbs in the newsletter and bulletins asking for donations to the Jubilee fund. Shirley added that we should all make an effort to invite friends to the event. Sunny said that we should appreciate all the hard work the committee has been done. The next meeting for the group is on March 9 at 2:00.

Member Committee reports

o **Caring Ministries** – Bruce addressed the Imagine No Malaria campaign. The suggestion

from conference was a 3 year commitment of \$100 per regular attendee (we have 123). Jim N said the word “commitment” was concerning. Steve said that the Sycamore UMM meeting took a free will offering (cash or pledge), and over \$1800 was raised. April 25 is World Malaria Day, that would be the date to decide by. Bruce talked with Our Saviors, they are also thinking about it; could possibly join forces. Jim N brought up the idea of having a special offering once a year, with promotion and education ahead of time. The Methodist Church has been helping in Africa for over 200 years. Steve suggested that we support it, but not with a financial pledge. There was discussion about tying other groups, like youth, into it – car wash? We need to be sure that we do not ask people to support too many things at the same time of year (ASP, Adult Mission are in spring). Bruce summarized that we could give a good faith commitment with education and special offerings, but without a set financial commitment. Bruce moved that we undertake this project over the next three years, organizing with a subgroup, letting the conference know that we are not making a definite financial commitment. Jill seconded. Jeff liked the idea of a build up before the special Sunday, and suggested a visual to track the giving. Steve said that when malaria was a problem in this country, we committed resources to it, and it was eradicated. Motion carried on a voice vote.

o **Christian Corner** – no report

o **Education** –

Marianne reported that they asked the teachers if they like the one room format and it was an overwhelming yes so they will stick with that for next year also.

March 8, 5:30-8pm we will have a kickoff to spring event—similar to what we did in January. Sunday School students are invited, bring friends, drop-off so parents have the night off, games, etc.

They talked in the last meeting about growing the Sunday School to grow the church (bring parents).

Added that on the bulletin board next to the office was an advertisement for a health coach with photos of girls in short shorts and sports bras, which seemed inappropriate, so she moved it. There was also an advertisement for tutoring by the office. Discussion about whether it is appropriate, and where such community ads should go. The north hallway is good for that. Sunny will let Donna know that announcements and advertisements should go in the north hallway. People will need to get approval from the office first. Marianne will put up a Community Sharing sign for a section of the bulletin board next week.

o **Evangelism** – Shirley said that it is not a functioning committee. Steve suggested that we ask Nominations to find people to resurrect Evangelism. Bruce passed out a survey “How did you come to Christ and the church?”; 75-85% were from the influence of friends and relatives. Jerry will add the survey to the newsletter. In 1999, Bruce got others to join him in sending letters to neighbors. Perhaps the new chair of evangelism could encourage the congregation to deliver letters to those neighbors who don’t have a church home; this is a neighborhood church. Jim N said that the conference’s Turnaround Boot Camp will be held April 5-6 (Sat/Sun) in Northbrook; would anyone else like to go with him? Cost is \$175 for four people if you register by Mar 1. Let Jim know. Sunny said that there is a budget for leadership training.

o **Lay Leader**

- none

o **Memorial Committee** – Julie reported that Memorial Committee met 1/23/14.

Current fund balance as of 1/23:

2014 YTD Income \$600 (Martin Hernandez); 2014 YTD Expenditures \$0

As of 1/23/14 balance = \$8634 (no change from end of year 2013, income received went directly into designated funds)

Acknowledgments are current.

Goals for this Committee for 2014

- 1) Be more welcoming to friends and families of church members by acknowledging Memorial Gifts within 2 weeks of notification
- 2) Be more responsive to church members by utilizing Memorial funds in a more timely manner
- 3) Work to grow the church and serve the members by providing educational material on Legacy giving and Memorial/Honor giving.

Also noted that the purchase of a new Memory Book will be recommended in 2014.

Pamphlets on Legacy Giving are in Narthex, mentioned in church bulletin, announcement, and newsletter.

Next scheduled meeting is 3/27.

o **Micah Ministries** – Jon said they have not met, but Faith in Action and the new malaria campaign will be part of the ministries.

o **Music** – Sunny said they were working on Easter services. Jill said that the choir will sing Good Friday, the praise teams will sing on Easter Sunday.

o **UMM** – Steve said he and Rich Hill went to the UMM conference meeting in Sycamore; good speakers, including a presentation on the malaria nets. When men come to church, 94% of the families come; they made the church more “man friendly”, and the church experienced much growth.

o **UMW** – Melinda reported that the board met and decided on the focus of the meetings for the year. March 4 will be just for fellowship, playing games and getting to know each other better. The rummage sale will be coming up in May, so we will see if Melissa Bland knows what help she would like at this point. The June 3 meeting will focus on a booklet study (still to be determined) about women’s issues. The Sept 23 meeting we will create drawstring bags & fill them with toiletries for women at the Elgin Community Crisis Center, so we will be asking people to save their travel shampoos & conditioners over summer. We will include notes of encouragement to the women. We discussed the possibility of “Memory ornaments” – setting up a Christmas tree in the Narthex, and selling red & green glass ornaments that we will write the names requested on. We thought about having some made with the 50th anniversary logo, but thought it would be cost prohibitive. We will again have the Heavenly Treats event on the Sunday after Thanksgiving. The December meeting will be a Christmas white elephant exchange.

o **Worship** – Jill said she sent an email out to everyone about announcements in church. They will now be a Mission Moment, offering opportunities of mission and service. They would like things to be written up in advance in this manner; most will be read by the liturgist, although occasionally it will be given by the person involved. The point is to make worship more

worshipful. Much discussion about making changes to the service. Jon pointed out that bringing ideas to this body to get reactions is a good process, so that any possible changes can be made ahead of time. Sunny will incorporate the explanation of the change into her March 3 sermon. Julie suggested that it be announced which services are more contemporary (answer – 2nd service is always more contemporary, as well as the 9:00 service the last Sunday of the month). Both services are somewhat blended.

Their goal is to be more welcoming; each member is going to bring names of members of all ages. They will meet with them once to discuss how to be welcoming, then invite them to be intentionally welcoming, finding those who need to be welcomed.

o **WTTF** – Marshall said they are planning to make the website reflect the Jubilee year. The beginning of March they will meet with the consultant to spec out the system. Melinda asked about outdated items, how should they be handled (such as minutes). Dan Wilkes is going through the website to update pages.

Jim N referenced the Northern Illinois Conference E-News; you can sign up for it and get it automatically. Lots of training info, etc. www.umcnic.org. He also showed a copy of a magazine *The Interpreter*; he will put it in the Ad Council box after reading it for others to read. Sunny said that Donna filled out a form to have it sent to five of our church leaders, plus online editions.

Next regularly scheduled Administrative Council Meeting

Thursday, March 20, 2014 Marianne moved, Julie seconded, that we adjourn.

Closing Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Taylor
Secretary