

First United Methodist Church
Plymouth, Indiana
Church Council
June 23rd, 2009

The church council met in the Sanctuary on Tuesday, June 23rd 2009 at 7:00pm.

Present:

Ralph Booker, Greta Corsbie, Dean Fager, John Finlay, Shelley Heiden, Barbara Hoedema, Larry Hoedema, Jerry Kralovansky, Brittley Lewallen, Juli Macey, Matt Pickut, Sue Stinson and Bonnie Yeazel.

Call to Order:

Ralph Booker called the meeting to order. Pastor Dean led the group in devotions and prayer.

Minutes:

Sue Stinson motioned to approve the minutes of April 14th, Brittley Lewallen seconded and all approved.

Program Reports

Archives – No report

Casserole Ministry – Sue Stinson reported that six families had been contacted and 14 meals had been served.

Education – No report

Missions – No report.

Nominations & Personnel – No report

Outreach & Member Support – Matt Pickut reported on a number of activities that the committee is planning.

- The Corn Roast has been planned for July 26th. The committee had the idea of having a block in conjunction with the Corn Roast. A band could be brought in to play and games set up. The committee suggested they could advertise and open it up to the entire town. A negative to this would be finding out how many people would attend and how to plan for that. It was suggested by the council to open it to all the United Methodist Churches in the community. It was agreed upon that for the first year it would be best only to open it up to our church and the surrounding block.
- Birthday Sunday has been set for September 27th. This will be a birthday party for everyone in the church. The committee would serve cake and have people sit at designated birthday month tables.
- The Festival of Faith this year will either be on October 9th & 10th or 16th & 17th. The date will depend upon when the speakers are available. The theme of this year's festival will be group life.
- Game night will be planned for late October this year or early 2010.
- Bringing back and updating the member name tags was discussed at one of the committee meetings.

- The committee is thinking about serving popcorn and water on the steps of the church during the Blueberry parade.

Social Concerns – Social Concerns would like to report that monthly contributions to the committee continue to be generous. We are averaging \$775 per month in the first five months of 2009. This has allowed us to continue to fulfill our responsibilities and give generously to the Care & Share group. Ken Brace, Director of Care & Share continues to give our committee detailed updates each month. We are to date able to contribute the 50% of contributions brought in monthly and a little more because of the reported demand for assistance.

Care & Share continues to see increased need,

March – interviewed 84 families, helped 23, average payment \$64

April – interviewed 90 families, helped 25, average payment \$87

May – interviewed 112 families, were able to assist 19 financially

Each month they are seeing more families asking for assistance and are ending the month with depleted funds. Care & Share is in need of volunteers to help with the screening process. FEMA Grant money is coming through them as well, which will increase the numbers to be interviewed. With the minimal staff they have the need for volunteers to interview and process the families is great.

We continue to pay the monthly Laundry Vouchers for single mothers who are within the program. The average payment over the past five months is \$223 for Laundry Vouchers. There is money within the budget to help anyone within our church family if there is need. The committee has asked Pastor Dean and Pastor Matt to be the designated people to go to representing our committee if someone does have a need. They accepted that role and we have given funds to one individual already.

We are not receiving any money at this time from the church budget but are still able to contribute where needed because of donations to the committee.

The committee continues to take donations of food and money from the grocery cart in the narthex to the Neighborhood Food Pantry every week (first and second Sunday of the month we deliver) (Missions takes it the third and fourth Sunday). We are averaging \$25 cash and 5 bags of groceries, but contributions are down at this time. The committee will buy \$100 worth of food from Aldies and distribute it one Sunday in July in the sanctuary. Pastor Dean or Pastor Matt will use the food within the children's story and have the children collect it as a reminder for us all to continue donating.

The committee will not be meeting in July or August. The Co-chairs have been given the approval to review and designate amount of funds to be distributed during those months. The committee will meet again in September.

Worship – No report

Youth Council & A.S.K. – Matt Pickut reported that eight students took a senior trip with A.S.K. to North Carolina and Dean went with A.S.K. to the Water Park recently. A good time was had by all.

Administrative Reports

Diefenbaugh Committee – No report

Endowment – John Finlay reported that at the April 2nd meeting Jennifer Maddox from the MCCF came and explained that \$4,700 could be paid out against the principal fund. The committee elected not to take this option. It was reported that in May the MCCF had \$16 million in the account, by the end of May it had risen to \$18.9 million and currently in June there was over \$19 million in the fund. A question arose during the meeting that if the church ceased to

exist what would happen to the fund in the church's account. It was reported that the fund would revert back to the original account holders, Bill and Betty Laramore. John Finlay met with the Laramores and asked them where they wanted the money to go in case something happened to the church. An amendment has been put together, upon the Laramore's direction, to have the money go to the Indiana Methodist Children's Home in Lebanon, Indiana.

The VanGuard Account has been dropping over the past couple of months. On 3/16 it was at \$16,090.55, on 4/20 it was at \$15,748.20 and on 5/31 it was at \$15,207.12.

Finance – The balance sheet as of June 23rd, 2009 was distributed to the council. Jerry Kralovansky reported that the committee met last Monday 6/15/09. He stated we are still in the black and that a reminder will be placed in the bulletin for everyone to check on where they are at with their pledges. Per the committee, pledges are behind year to date.

Membership Secretary - No report

Memorials Committee - No report

Staff-Parish Relations Committee – No report

Stewardship Committee – No report

Trustees – No report

Old Business

Update on the Well – Matt Pickut reported that numbers have been down recently and there has been discussion on different options for the summer and how best to use their resources. Matt would like to have Sunday School summits on children's Sunday school with the parents to discuss what they would like to see and how better to serve the children. Brittley Lewallen stated that she had spoken to some moms about how it would be easier to come to church if there was a place to send the children during the summer since junior church was out.

John Finlay suggested that The Well take over the lemonade stand the older Sunday school class used to run at the Blueberry Festival. It would be a good money making activity. Matt stated he would look into it for 2010, since it would be too late to put together for this year's Blueberry festival

Our Church Cluster – Dean reported that Kerry O'Brien and he will discuss how Trinity and 1st United could do some things together. They will both talk about pray about it.

Reaffirmation of Preschool vote – it was motioned that the council reaffirm the electronic vote taken on May 6th giving Michele Faulstich permission to launch a private preschool using the churches facilities, equipment and name. The electronic vote on May 6th had been 22 to 0. Shelley Heiden motioned, John Finlay seconded and all approved.

Leadership emphasis for 2009 – Two of the four items listed in the Church council agenda will be focused on by Dean and Matt in the coming months.

- The development of group life - including several kinds of groups. Matt reported that he had gone to a conference in Cincinnati put on by the Saddleback church about small group life. He learned about different types of small groups and how to start them. The Festival of Faith will be used as a kick-off.

- The development of a 9:15am Sunday Morning alternative worship service. This worship service would be a place that would be easy for parents to take their children. The goal would be to tie the themes together of the children's class and worship, so that the parents and children could discuss afterwards. Matt is currently looking for a worship leader and band leader. Dean and Matt would like to start this worship service in the fall if a person could be found to lead the service.

New Business

Motion from the Finance Committee:

The Finance Committee motioned that the handbells be serviced and repaired this summer; and that, the funding for labor and parts come from the Handbells' VanGuard account (\$200 for labor) and from the Trustees' VanGuard account (\$200 for labor, up to \$150 for parts). John Finlay seconded the motion after which there was much discussion concerning whether the Trustees needed to give approval before the money was taken out of their account, since they were not made aware of it prior. Dean stated he would send an e-mail in the morning to the Trustees informing them the money would come out of their account. The motion was then approved by all.

Other Reports

Lay Leader – Bonnie stated she had been attending a lot of meetings and has heard the same thing at every meeting that people are aware of the financial situation and are doing their best to work with the finances.

Church Council Chairperson – No report

Pastor – Dean stated it was amazing how creative all the committees have been finding ways to raise money.

Other Business

Date of Next Church Council Meeting: August 25th, 2009

Adjournment - There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Juli Macey, Recording Secretary

Date approved