

First United Methodist Church
Plymouth, Indiana
Church Council
March 3rd, 2009

The church council met in the Sanctuary on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2009 at 7:00pm.

Present:

Eric Andeson, Mike Bachman, Claudia Button, Cris Causey, Jim Causey, Gloria Daily, Dean Fager, John Finlay, Sally Greenlee, Shelley Heiden, Barbara Hoedema, Larry Hoedema, Andy Jackson, John Lawson, Maxine Lawson, Juli Macey, Ron May, Kathy Mills, Matt Pickut, Barbie Pickut, Beth Pinkerton, Sue Stinson, Ruth VanVactor and Bonnie Yeazel

Call to Order:

Jim Causey called the meeting to order. Pastor Dean led the group in devotions and prayer.

Minutes: There were no minutes presented from the January 27th meeting. Claudia Button, who took the minutes, will turn them into the church office.

Administrative Reports:

A. Preschool Board Task Force Recommendation

Ron May presented the Church Council with a recommendation letter that stated either the Church Council would need to invest funds from the church budget at a significant level or the Preschool Program could not continue to carry out its mission in a viable way. Ron stated that the Preschool would need at least an additional \$8,000 - \$10,000 a year from the church budget dependent upon the number of students that were enrolled for a given year. Ron had done some investigation and found that most families, especially in these hard economic times, needed not only a preschool program for their children but a daycare. Cris Causey had looked into the possibility of whether our preschool could co-op with a daycare. She contacted several daycares in town; however, there was no interest. Fundraisers have helped the preschool over the past couple of year. 2008 was an especially good year with \$5,500 being raised. This was not enough, however; as the Church council endowment had to add \$2,400 to help balance the budget. Gloria Daily motioned to accept the report, with regret, to discontinue the preschool effective at the end of May 2009. Eric Anderson seconded this motioned and all approved.

Program Reports:

A. Social Concerns Recommendations

Shelley Heiden presented a report to the Church Council recommending that the Social Concerns committee turn over the task of interviewing and giving funds donated by our congregation to Care & Share. Within the letter the following proposals were made:

- All 2008, 2009 files from FUMC Social Concerns be turned over to the new director at C&S.
- Upon approval by the church council, we will then review our past giving to find an average monthly amount, to determine future monthly commitments.
- FUMC Social Concerns Committee will receive quarterly updates and review of monies given from the C&S budget so we can report to our congregation on-going.
- Those reports will aid the committee in determining monthly donations on-going to C&S.

- We will give \$1,000 from the existing fund (\$6,500) when the director is in place. We feel this amount will show our commitment to C&S.
- Diane, our secretary will maintain the check book and write checks per our instructions.
- Balance of the money in existing account will be kept at FUMC – to address our own member’s needs or other Social Concerns needs.

First United Methodist Church is one of the last churches in the community to handout money directly to individuals in need. Shelley also stated that 50% of the monies received from the congregation would be sent to Care & Share, while 50% would stay within the church in our Social Concerns budget. Ruth VanVactor suggested that someone within the Social Concerns committee take care of the checkbook. Pastor Dean stated that Diane would not be keeping a separate checkbook since the money is put into a restricted fund and would stay in the Social Concerns budget. Mike Bachman asked how much of the money given to Care & Share would actually go to the families in need. Shelley stated that if \$100 was given then \$85 would go to the family and \$15 would go to Care & Share for Administrative fees. John Finlay motioned to accept the proposal and Beth Pinkerton seconded the motion. All approved with the addendum to the original written proposal that the funds be restricted and that the monies be split 50% to Care & Share and 50% to the Social Concerns budget.

Other Reports:

A. Cluster Tip-Off Event

The Cluster Tip-Off Event was held Sunday March 1st at the South Bend Grace Methodist church. In attendance at this event were Pastor Dean Fager, Bonnie Yeazel and Jim Causey. Dean explained that Indiana used to be made up of 18 districts and now that has been consolidated into 10 districts. There are more churches now in every district. First United is part of the North District. The main emphasis of this event was to form clusters of churches that would meet with one another and discuss what was happening within the lives of each of the churches. The churches would follow up, support and pray for one another. First United is the Marshall cluster along with Pretty Lake, Trinity, Argos and Culver Wesley.

Dean also mentioned that Annual Conference will take place on June 25th-28th. The Warsaw District will be able to send 19 Equalization delegates to Annual conference, in the past it has only been 12. Gloria Daily from First United will be one of the delegates. This years Annual Conference will be held at Ball State.

Other Business:

Date of Next Meeting: April 14th, 2009

Adjournment - There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Juli Macey, Recording Secretary

Date approved

