

First United Methodist Church
Plymouth, Indiana
Church Council
January 27, 2009

The Church Council met in the Sanctuary on Tuesday, January 27, 2009, at 7:00 p.m..

Present:

Dean Fager, Jim Causey, Matt and Barbie Pickut, Larry and Barbara Hoedema, Jerry Kralovansky, Shelley Heiden, John Finlay, John and Maxine Lawson, Sue Stinson, Greta Corsbie, Bonnie Yeazel, Kathy Mills, Beth Pinkerton, Gloria Daily, Eric Anderson, Ruth VanVactor, Bill Rettig, Claudia Button

Call to Order:

Jim Causey called the meeting to order and Dean gave the devotions.

Minutes:

Beth Pinkerton moved to approve the October 28, 2008 and December 21, 2008 minutes, Eric Anderson seconded, and all approved.

Program Reports:

Archives – The report was handed out.

Casserole Ministry – Sue Stinson reported four families had been contacted, and 15 meals had been served.

Education – No Report

Missions – No Report

Nominations & Personnel – No Report

Outreach & Member Support Committee – Eric Anderson reported that there would be a game night on April 18th – there will be table games, etc., will be using all three floors; talked about a Dining-out lunch; Christmas cards – need to take pictures of the church for the cards; Cabin Fever Day – ideas have been tossed about but nothing definite.

Social Concerns – The report was handed out. Jim Causey reported that he attended the Social Concerns Meeting as chairman of Church Council. Shelley Heiden reported that many people have been helped via the committee, also that Velma's position needs to be filled soon.

Worship – No Report

Youth Council & A.S.K. – Matt reported on the New Year's Eve lock-in – there were 20 kids, used the projector and had a great time. The kids were great – Matt stayed up all night, the kids were down around 4:00 a.m.!

Administrative Reports:

Diefenbaugh Committee – No Report

Endowment – John Finlay reported that they met on December 4th. On December 21st there was \$19,395.64 in the Vanguard account, and on December 31st there was \$19,477.34. In mid-January the endowment was increased by \$3,000.00. A check will come from MCCF toward the end of the month to go into the Vanguard account, last year \$725 was received from MCCF, it will be less this year.

Finance – Jerry Kralovansky reported that we had a deficit last year. The Finance Committee accepted the budget but will keep a close eye on things. It is encouraging that pledging is up 2% but pledging and collecting are two different

things. Praying about the finances is also a good thing but it will take the whole church. Jim will be attending the Finance Meetings also.

Memorials Committee – No Report

Preschool Board – Barbie Pickut reported that the Board met a week ago to discuss continuing fundraisers. The Preschool was to be self sufficient in three year and they are aware that it was not. The staff needs to know by this spring if the Church Council decides to not continue with the preschool next year. Michelle feels there will be 10 students next year and that enrollment continues during the year. Our preschool is something valued by the community and is a ministry of the church. There are 15 students presently enrolled in the preschool but 27 are needed to break even. There may be a change in the schedule to make it more attractive. One idea is to combine classes when the enrollment is down.

Staff-Parish – No Report

Stewardship – No Report

Trustees – Beth Pinkerton reported that they have not made a decision as to what to do about Norris. They are working with Staff/Parish to find someone to work with Norris part-time and then go into full-time, they have asked Norris if he knows anyone. Trustees are looking into Voicemail for Diane – is needed because of all of the social concerns calls she receives. Trustees are looking into rekeying all of the locks. No doors have been left unlocked since the announcement of break-ins at various churches. John Finlay reported that all six doors in the front of the church need to be locked, not three.

Membership – Ruth VanVactor passed out her report on 2008 Membership Information. Those who have been removed from the membership have only been removed for internal purposes.

Old Business:

The Well – Matt Pickut reported that things are going smoothly, had some down Sundays because of weather but things are starting to pick up. May have 1-5 new people each Sunday and people are coming from outside the church. The people coming are very loyal. Everyone should experience The Well. The curriculum is very good and has been used the last two weeks – there are good activities for the kids. Gloria Daily suggested that Florence Hoham should be acknowledged for the monetary donation given to The Well. Dean said when the weather warms up there will be an Open House and formal dedication.

Final Report for the 2009 General Expense Budget – Approval was given on December 21, 2008, final figures were within \$1,000. Tonight's figures are actual. We need to raise approximately \$30,000 to do all that we want to do. Stewardship will be very involved this year, it will not be just a fall committee. Gloria Daily asked is there is any money in the endowment funds that could be used, we are already using the funds for items that are over budget. It was stated that it will be a challenging year. John Finlay stated that the Bates family has three different funds that are generating funds. The monies that have been coming in have been going toward the elevator. The Dixon Fund goes toward music, specifically for the choir and was used for the 2008 Cantata.

New Business:

Shareholders Meeting – A report was passed out. Bonnie Yeazel, Jerry Kralovansky and Don Balka were thanked for being at each meeting. One thing that jumped out at the committee was "Embracing Change." Jim Causey stated that it is incumbent on this committee to devise a long range plan. All committees need to work in concert with that idea. We need a clear sense of what we need to accomplish. Gloria Daily needs to have church news in order to publish it for the newspaper.

Appointment of Task Force for Preschool – the appointment has been done – Don Balka, Genie Tobias, and Cris Causey. They are to evaluate the preschool. They will be calling a meeting toward the end of February. Parents and employees need to know so they will know what to do for next year. There is no line item in the budget for preschool. Also, the

Task Force needs to inform the congregation about the preschool. Matt Pickut stated that as the economy gets tougher, it may become even more of a ministry for the church. Shelley Heiden asked if the Social Concerns & Missions Committees could help with scholarships for the preschool and was told that yes they could help.

Tip-Off Meeting for Church Clusters – On June 30, 2010, we will become a part of the N. District Cluster. We will meet as clusters, a council will be formed with lay people.

Leadership – Dean and Matt talked with Staff/Parish about goals and four needs which should be an emphasis for the coming year:

1. Lift Up – Embrace change – make it a mantra
2. Improve Group Life – a start with 40 Days of Love beginning on March 1st
3. Develop a 9:15 service that is an alternative service were parents can go to church and their children will be in Sunday School – this may begin in September because a band still needs to be formed.
4. Proclaiming the year of Jubilee – involves very few committees. This will free-up people to becoming involved in a group or activity.

A vote on the 9:15 Service was taken and it passed.

Other Reports:

Lay Leader – Bonnie Yeazel reported that as a Lay Leader she has attended the Outreach, Staff/Parish and Finance meetings and that they have been very interesting.

Jim Causey expressed appreciation to Don Balka for serving three years as chair of the Church Council. Jim would like to see the committee chairs report at each meeting.

Dean stated that he is very excited at having Matt on staff and that he meets with him to bounce ideas around and that creativity that Matt brings to the table.

Other Business:

Date of Next Meeting – April 14, 2009. There will be a called meeting sooner concerning the preschool

Adjournment – There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Claudia Button, Interim Recording Secretary

Date Approved