

First United Methodist Church
Plymouth, Indiana
Church Council
April 14th, 2009

The church council met in the Sanctuary on Tuesday, April 14th 2009 at 7:00pm.

Present:

Eric Anderson, Jim Causey, Greta Corsbie, Gloria Daily, Dean Fager, John Lawson, Maxine Lawson, Juli Macey, Barbara Pickut, Matt Pickut, Beth Pinkerton, Sue Stinson and Bonnie Yeazel.

Call to Order:

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

Minutes:

Sue Stinson motioned to approve the minutes of January 27th with two corrections, Eric Anderson seconded and all approved. Gloria Daily motioned to approve the March 3rd minutes as corrected per Jim Causey, Greta Corsbie seconded and all approved.

Program Reports

Archives – There was no report, however; Dean mentioned that quite a few boxes were sent to DePauw for storage.

Casserole Ministry – Sue Stinson reported that four families had been contacted about meals. All felt they were doing fine and did not need meals to be delivered at this time.

Education – There was no report, however; Matt stated he will be contacting the heads of the Education Committee (Greg Hildebrand) and Youth Council (Andy Jackson) to discuss contacting children of all ages about how better to minister to the youth of our congregation.

Missions – No report.

Nominations & Personnel – No report

Outreach & Member Support – Eric Anderson reported that Game night will be this Saturday 4/18. The doors will open at 6:00pm. It will directly follow the preschool's soup supper. The committee is still working on getting Taste of Plymouth going. There has been two dinners so far and they are trying to plan more.

Social Concerns – The committee thanks the Church Council for their decision to turn over the interviewing and distribution of benevolent funds to the Care & Share Organization for Marshall County. The committee met Ken Brace, the new Director and gave him a contribution from our church in March. The committee met again last evening and Ken Brace from Care & Share had a report (interviewed 90 families, were able to give funds to 25). He shared "the need is growing". The Committee will meet Saturday, April 25th to pack lunches for Rebuilding Together. We will be paying the insurance charge for that Rebuilding Together Event. We have done that in the past when needed.

We will be honoring Velma Butler on Sunday April 26th at the 10:30am service for her dedicated work on Social Concerns committee over the years.

The Social concerns checkbook has been closed and money was transferred to a restricted fund for Social Concerns. Diane Kregbaum will distribute checks determined by the Social Concerns committee on a monthly basis.

Worship – No report

Youth Council & A.S.K. – Matt Pickut reported that all is going well with A.S.K. They are currently planning for the Blueberry Stomp and Matt stated that VBS will be organized by the Presbyterian Church this year.

Administrative Reports

Diefenbaugh Committee – Beth Pinkerton met with John Glaub about the Fusion retreat. He asked for a large sum of money that we were unable to donate. The committee was able to give him \$1,000 out of the Diefenbaugh fund. The Fusion retreat is being held June 26-28 at the Geneva Center. The committee gave money from the fund for Matt Pickut to attend a conference in Cincinnati about small groups put on by the Saddleback church. \$350 was given to the 40 days of love program to help underwrite it.

Endowment – There was no report, however; Dean mentioned that we are receiving no distribution of funds currently from the MCFF. The monies in the account have gone from \$188,000 to \$127,000. To receive distributions there must be a principal balance of \$157,000 or above.

Finance – The balance sheet as of October 14th, 2008 was distributed to the council. Dean stated we are in the black and all bills are current.

Membership Secretary - No report

Memorials Committee - No report

Preschool Board – Barbie Pickut reported that the auction for the preschool was very successful, \$810.02 was raised. The soup supper will be held this Saturday on 4/18. Not many tickets have been sold, however; Barbie believes there will be quite a few people who buy tickets at the door. Gloria Daily suggested putting an article in the Pilot news on Saturday in the local church section. It was also mentioned that advertising could be placed on the WTCA website. Even with money from the soup supper, the preschool will need \$1,500-\$2,000 to pay for staffing through the end of the school year (mid-May). There were two options presented to help the preschool make it through the school year. One was to ask the congregation for support to help finish the year or second have the church pay for the shortfall and then pay back the money through more fundraisers during the summer. The council thought it would be best to ask for support from the congregation now instead of trying to raise more money later.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee – No report

Stewardship Committee – No report

Trustees – Beth Pinkerton stated that with Norris voluntarily going to a 4 day work week that there is still a lot of maintenance that will need to get done at the church. Because of this there is going to be clean-up days on May 1st and 2nd (Friday 4-8pm and Saturday 8am-12pm). A clothesline with different maintenance and cleaning tasks will be placed at the back of the sanctuary. People can volunteer to do different items during the above times. Dean's computer

was fixed. Bracing of the pews in the front of the church needs to be done. Dick Stinson will take care of this as well as some plastering work that needs to happen in the front entryway.

Old Business

Update on the Well – Matt Pickut reported that things have been exciting with the Well. Attendance has been holding steady in the 40s. Matt sat down with Ed Finstermacher of the Indiana Church conference to strategize about the Well. Matt is pulling together a leadership team from people who attend the Well. He would like to expand into small groups and missions. He would also like to start second Saturday's at The Well, this would be the second Saturday of every month at a tentative time of 6:30pm. He has asked local churches if they have bands that would be willing to play. First United would provide a sound person and someone to man the coffee bar. So far a couple of bands have responded. Matt would like to get a quarters worth of bands booked before he moves forward with this program.

Our Church Cluster – On 4/30 our Church Cluster will meet at Pretty Lake church.

Leadership emphasis for 2009 – One of the Leadership goals is to “Embrace Change”. Dean and Matt will begin a three week series on change. They are hoping to engage the congregation with comments and questions. The development of group life, the development of a 9:15am Sunday morning alternative worship service and “A year of Jubilee” are all in process.

New Business

Request for facilities & equipment for an independent preschool – Michele Faulstich would like to continue an independent preschool in the same location. There are six items that need to happen to make this possible.

- Michele can still use the apple tree for the congregation to donate supplies.
- Needs to find her own insurance for liability and worker's comp.
- The Church will allow her to use the space and utilities
- No secretarial support will be given
- No janitorial support will be given
- All financial costs are hers, pay for her own supplies

Michele will put a proposal together and present to the Church Council once she is ready.

Goals – Jim Causey will need to put together a task force from the Church Council to come up with goals for the church by 6/1. Need to have 2-3 goals that are attainable. Jim would like to begin meetings on this during May.

Other Reports

Lay Leader – Bonnie stated she has been attending a lot of meetings and has heard the same thing at every meeting that people are aware of the financial situation

Church Council Chairperson – Jim stated he also has been attending a lot of meetings and is going through a learning curve. There is a lot to do and a lot going on.

Pastor – Dean re-iterated the importance of group life within our church.

Other Business

Date of Next Church Council Meeting: June 23rd, 2009

Adjournment - There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Juli Macey, Recording Secretary

Date approved