

**Christ Church United Methodist  
Administrative Council  
January 24, 2005**

**Call to Order/Minutes**

Meeting was called to order by Sandy Bock at 7:05 p.m. Dan Stokes led the group in singing "Lord, You Give the Great Commission." Aaron Mansfield then provided a devotional and prayer. He posed some metaphorical questions re: our love of the ocean, and compared them to the direction we're headed. He talked about the difference between vision and task, between love and obligation, between grace and law. Aaron compared our upcoming Building Project to that of building a boat. There are the rules and processes of simply building the vessel, but there's really something bigger going on here...the "yearnings of the wide, boundless ocean," which, as Aaron described, can be compared to our deep yearning for the kingdom of God. This project is something that will begin with the end in mind, just as building a boat does. Aaron asked the group to just imagine what kind of "boat" we can build, based on what we see happening as the end result here at Christ Church..."We are explorers who build ships, not just ship builders." Minutes of the October Charge Conference were presented, with no additions or corrections. They were subsequently approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

Doug Arbuckle first addressed the Statement of Operations for the General Fund, ending 12/31/04. There was a \$49,000. shortfall at year end, representing about 2.1% of the budget. This was however, a 4.6% increase over last year. Two key reasons were reduced class size in the Preschool, and higher utilities and maintenance expenses in the Facilities area. Doug commended our staff for being very good stewards. On the Balance Sheet, we were very cash rich in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter...thus, we ended the year with a healthy balance. We now have the recently purchased house rented, and are paying some principal each month.

The Finance Committee has met and recommended a budget for 2005. They are proposing that the Council approve this "visionary" budget, which represents a 17% increase in giving from the 2004 actual. Expense adjustments have been broken into two areas: Personnel (adjustment of \$135,000) and Programming (adjustment of \$210,000). Finance is concerned about two areas: They are proposing a slight reduction from 16% to 14% in apportionments vs. this past year (actual amount is still higher than previously given.) They are also proposing a \$25,000. deferral in capital improvement requests from the Trustees. These have been rolled into a "contingency budget" of \$72,000. to offset the uncertainty currently on our revenue line. Doug explained that we currently have about \$206,000. in pledges from 2004 that haven't been received in 2005. We also have a number of 2004 pledges that were short-paid. Because of these reasons, the contingency budget has been proposed. Discussion followed re: what areas would be "squeezed" if we encounter a shortfall in '05. Doug suggested that possibly the capital improvements portion of the budget would be affected. He did say however, that if revenues are running short, Barb is very good about making the various departments aware on an ongoing basis. A motion was then made to accept the 2005 Visionary Budget. It was seconded, and subsequently passed.

**Ministry Teams**

**Belize trip**

Gwen and John Morton have just returned from a third Mission trip to Belize. Eight folks from the Pioneers Class went, and took 44 boxes with over \$5000. in school materials and supplies to

be divided between fourteen Methodist schools. They took several Hooked on Phonics sets, as well as 300 recorders, lots of art supplies, textbooks, and 700 toothbrushes and toothpaste. The group was recognized by the President of the Methodist District Conference, as the conference was being held in Honduras while they were there.

### **Tsunami Aid**

Dan Stokes reported on an upcoming Medical Mission trip that Dr. Raja Kara will be taking on February 3 to Sri Lanka...Dr. Kara is native Sri Lankan. He will be accompanied by Joy Monsma and Dennis Gray. Dr. Kara's brother-in-law is there, and is involved with a program that can build homes for about \$1700. Dr. Kara has found some financial support from a local rotary club for this project as well. There are also other specific needs re: this mission trip. Please contact Dr. Kara or Leigh Ray with any possible support.

### **Outreach**

Rick Ashton introduced Wenda Webster-Fisher who handles out-of-state projects. Wenda reminded the group of the Scholarship Fund that has been available here at CCUM for supporting the advanced education of our Sudanese refugees. At least two scholarships per semester have been awarded. Most recently, Abraham Bul has started as a full-time transfer student at Lindsay Wilson college. All but \$1000. of his tuition has been covered by various grants, etc. The CCUM Scholarship Fund will cover this remainder, along with his books. Wenda praised the work of Karen and Bob Sims who helped with a major portion of Abraham's paperwork, and Dr. Luckey (sp?), the president of Lindsay Wilson College, for his assistance.

### **Youth Ministry**

Mark Ray highlighted two events related to our youth, the first being Youth Sunday on February 6. The CCUM youth will handle all aspects of the worship services that morning, and Mark encouraged everyone to be there, especially those with kids who aren't necessarily involved currently with our youth programs. Mark also described an ongoing time of prayer support for our youth, on Wednesday nights from 7-7:30, location TBD. He shared a need for five additional Confirmation mentors for the upcoming Confirmation class. There are currently 38 students in the group, with that possibly growing to over 40.

### **Prayer Ministry**

Rick Rittenhouse invited everyone to become a member of the Prayer Ministry team. He stressed the importance of prayer in our Christian walk, and asked that we tout this ministry to our friends and Sunday School classes, etc.

### **Pastor's Report**

Aaron Mansfield will be going to Peachtree Road UM Church in Atlanta in the coming month. They are at the next level beyond Christ Church, thus we may be able to gain further insight into what they're doing to bring people through the doors, get and keep folks involved, etc. Leigh Ray is also going to meet with her counterpart in the Outreach area.

Dr. Strunk gave a heartfelt thanks to the Finance Committee for assembling the 2005 Visionary Budget, and to the Administrative Council for their confidence in passing it.

### **Trustees' Report**

Ted Champion told the group that the Trustees had originally requested \$146,500. for 2005, but that \$25,000. of that will be moved into a contingency budget, for possible use in the fourth quarter. Certain projects have already been done, and others will be initiated soon. Those include:

- 1) Classroom divider for room 105. (\$8500.)
- 2) Continuation of interior and exterior painting (\$10,000.)
- 3) Window replacements in high priority areas.

Parking lot improvements may be deferred until after construction. Two rooftop units will potentially be replaced this year...just waiting until they completely go! Trustees are also looking at alternatives to replacing carpet in the preschool classrooms...possibly carpet tiles that can be individually replaced when worn, etc.

A question was raised re: CCUM's recycling policy, and about possibly instituting a churchwide recycling program. This will be pursued.

### **Staff Parish Relations Committee**

Pam Knight thanked the Council for approving the budget, supporting our excellent staff here! She welcomed Rebecca Heid as our full time Director of Senior Adult Ministries. In the near future, we should have another Youth Minister on board. This job description is currently being finalized. Adina Cook will now assist Jennifer Tuggle on a part-time basis with some of the Children's Ministry programs.

### **Old Business**

#### **New Business**

Dr. Strunk referred to the church-wide meeting in January, where the recommendations of the Building Committee were approved by the congregation. Three Steering committees have been established to guide the building process:

- Financial Committee- Rick Guillaume is Executive Director of Capital Fund Stewardship Campaign; Joe Reeves will assist with Leadership phase; Kathy Keadle is Campaign Manager and will handle publicity, etc. working towards May 15 (Commitment Sunday)
- Design Committee – headed by Phil Gayhart and Ken Brooks. This will involve continuing to listen and reaching consensus re: all design elements of project
- Construction Committee – headed by Denny Howell and Dick Good

Dan Burgess will lead the Communications team, assisted by Neil Kuvin and Byron Graham. Other people are currently being recruited, with the first training session for these leaders being held next week. Dr. Strunk asked for the Council's support. A motion was made to delegate to this Steering Committee the authority to fill all positions moving towards our Building project. The motion was seconded, and was unanimously approved.

### **Concerns and Praises**

Margaret Lee introduced herself, and then asked for praises or concerns:

- Walt Kunau's student, Colin, having a bone removed to help with diagnosing his illness
- Jack Yusk; his mother also, Shawn Flynn
- Bob Parr, with back pain
- Marsha Wardlaw
- Phyllis Wilson
- Andrew Horne – serving in Iraq
- God's spirit working in this church

Margaret then closed with a prayer and meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Faulkner  
Recording Secretary

