

**Christ Church United Methodist
Administrative Council Meeting
5/19/03**

Call to Order/Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Sandy Bock. Dan Stokes led Council members in song, which was followed by the opening devotional, given by Jennie Weeks. She shared her collection of kaleidoscopes, and discussed how they represent a metaphor for living our lives as Christians. They mirror our Christian walk in three ways:

- 1) A kaleidoscope is made up of small broken pieces, just as our lives are in a state of brokenness at times
- 2) The kaleidoscope requires movement/constant change to provide its varied images and colors, just as life is ever-changing for us
- 3) The kaleidoscope must be held up to the light to visualize its beautiful images, just as Christ provides Light in our lives, to help us make sense of it and then “reflect” His grace to others.

The March minutes were then approved by the group as written.

Sandy Bock asked that **Doctor** Jean Hawxhurst come forward to receive a gift of congratulations from the Council for recently receiving her doctorate!

Ministry Teams

Steve Chappars announced that the next Ministry Team meeting will be held on June 16. Information is being gathered for the new Ministry Team newsletter, which will include upcoming events, information, etc. for the CCUM congregation.

Staff Parish Relations – Pam Knight introduced three new additions that have recently joined the CCUM staff:

- 1) Leigh Ray – Lay Ministry Coordinator
- 2) Beth Dixon – Director of Fellowship Worship Service
- 3) Kelly Temple – Leader of Fellowship Worship Service

Next Fellowship Service will be Saturday, May 24 at 5:00 p.m.

Outreach/Missions – Wenda Fischer introduced two guests to the Council meeting, Bob Sims and Dr. Bob Bryant. They represent a project which was initiated at the 2000 General Conference, which focuses on the problem of substantially reduced funding of higher education for 11 historically black United Methodist colleges and 13 black United Methodist seminaries remaining in the U.S. Christ Church is being asked to hold an initial pilot event to support this campaign, the goal being a \$700 million endowment for Higher Education scholarships over 10 years or so. This pilot event, to be held in February 2004 at the Kavanaugh Retreat Center, would be developed and perfected, and then presented across the country to other potential supporters of this project.

Christ Church will form an initial partnership with Georgetown College, to establish the endowment and prepare for the February 2004 kickoff meeting at Kavanaugh. Wesley United Methodist Church will also be involved.

The Finance Committee passed a motion in an earlier meeting to recommend that CCUM host the February 2004 event, as well as publicize it and offer outreach opportunities through this project. There is no request for budget dollars at this time. The motion from the Finance Committee was then approved by the Administrative Council.

Pastor's Report

Dr. Strunk welcomed the new staff members, Leigh Ray, Beth Dixon, and Kelly Temple, and is anticipating the "full time" weekly Fellowship service on Saturday nights starting sometime in the fall.

Dr. Strunk asked for prayers re: the future direction of our church, which is currently being assessed in several ways:

- 1) Dan Stokes is working with Laura Scarborough conducting focus groups to determine how we can be a more inviting church during our "high crowding" times. They will eventually present recommendations about possible changes in the worship schedules to address our crowding issues.
- 2) Neil Kuvin, along with the Long Range Planning Committee, is working to develop a "Design of the Future" for Christ Church, which will be presented in the fall at Charge Conference. Information will then be disseminated to the congregation in Spring '04 re: plans for changes to our facilities and property, with a possible Capital Funds Campaign being initiated in Fall '04.
- 3) Miles Lee and the Endowment Committee have recently provided new information to the congregation re: opportunities to give in the form of large gifts and estate planning, which would support missions, outreach programs, our facilities, etc.

Dr. Hawxhurst then thanked the Council for its support of her over the past three years. She welcomed Tom Walton as the new co-chair for Missions/Outreach, and then reviewed various opportunities for ministry "outside our walls."

- 1) Tennessee – CCUM will send a group to help rebuild after recent storms
- 2) Mexico – CCUM will help to rebuild a church there from July 24-August 1
- 3) Harrisburg, PA – Dan Stokes will make this annual mission trip with other CCUM members, July 25-27
- 4) Habitat for Humanity Roof Raising – June 28
- 5) Kingdom Builders – outreach opportunities with our Genesis U.M. partner
- 6) CORE (Committee on Religious Persecution) will meet this Wednesday, May 21 at 2:00
- 7) ASAP – Working with West Broadway UM to collect children's items
- 8) Portland UM – Tutoring opportunities
- 9) Partnering with the Handbell Choir to deliver new handbells to the Rev. Joseph Kolawole's church in Nigeria

Treasurer's Report

Barb Schissler reported that we currently have about \$150,000. in the Operating Fund. The Temporarily Restricted fund is close to \$200,000., which is primarily comprised of monies for designated giving, i.e. Handbell fund for Joseph Kolawole's church, Kevin/Elizabeth Brown Organ fund, etc. We have approximately \$151,000. in deferred revenue, due primarily to an invoicing process in our preschool. We've also spent \$22,000. more than we've received in contributions, as of April 30. On the operating side, our contributed revenues are 14.7% behind budget, but are typically made up during 4th quarter due to strong seasonal giving. The preschool is currently in a very strong position, with the turnaround due to a decision by that group to allow enlarged class sizes. Our facilities budget is over by some \$14,000. due to 90% of our gas budget being spent by April of this year. We also experienced large snow removal expenses in the early part of this year. The Education expenditures are currently over budget due to timing in curriculum purchases and youth programming projects. The Worship and Congregational Care expenses are ahead by a total of approximately \$14,000., due to new staff positions being budgeted for March, but not actually starting until May. All in all, Christ Church is currently in a very secure position.

Current Business Issues of the Finance Committee include:

- 1) Handbell Fund for Joseph Kolawole's church in Nigeria – All required funds have been raised! Recent concerts raised \$5500.00, with an anonymous donor making up the difference!
- 2) Employee Benefits – Staff Parish Relations Committee, along with Finance Committee, are working to make proposals re: outdated terms of employee benefits. This would affect new employees to Christ Church...existing employees' benefits would likely remain the same.
- 3) Organ Fund, established by Brown family, in memory of Kevin and Elizabeth Brown, is now available to accept funds, and will be tied in with plans for changes to sanctuary. The Finance Committee is endorsing follow-up on this project.
- 4) An audit will begin tomorrow (May 20). Plans are to have a draft for the final audit at the July Committee meeting.

A concern was raised by a Council member re: "profit" being shown from the preschool, and whether that's appropriate for Christ Church to receive. Barb Schissler clarified that the income for the '02-'03 school year is there to also cover summer salaries for teachers, so that by the end of the year, there may actually be a deficit.

Trustees' Report

Robert Pfeiffer informed the group that paving of the parking lot will be finished by the end of May. The 2003 budget is about \$120,000, which will include carpet replacement, some painting and replacement of windows, and replacement of some air conditioning units.

The group is currently evaluating an Interment of Ashes program, but is not in the position yet to recommend a vote on the subject. They are working with Long Range Planning to evaluate various issues such as location, liability, etc. It may possibly be July or August before the group can determine whether to move forward with this project. If approved, they would proceed with an initial design, followed by a second approval after the design is actually drawn and reviewed. Questions were raised re: the cost to a family for interment of ashes. A donation in the amount of around \$300.00 will be suggested. A plaque could also be provided for an additional \$100.00. The issue was also raised re: actual placement of the ashes to prevent blowing, etc.

Dr. Strunk has spoken with the pastor of St. Matthews UM, which has a similar program. As a practical consideration, the ashes are typically embedded under sod or soil to prevent blowing. Concerns were voiced about future moves of Christ Church, or changes in the facility or grounds, and how that would affect this proposed area. Long Range Planning is working closely with the Trustees to ensure a well-thought out procedure for Interment of Ashes.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Steve Chappars shared an advertisement by a Lexington UM church in the newspaper there, brought to him by another member of Christ Church. The church is reaching out to new members by acknowledging their stressed parking situation, and encouraging guests/visitors to use their parking lot, while the members park off-site and take a shuttle. An interesting concept! Barb Schissler described various changes in rooms within our facility. The conference room will move from room 211 to room 226. Four office suites will then go into 211, along with a workspace for volunteers. Jennifer Tuggle will also be moving her office.

A question was posed re: sign-ups for the upcoming Habitat for Humanity project. Jim Tennill has the sign-up sheets, and Sharon Woodall is the volunteer coordinator. They will contact everyone who initially indicated their interest in helping with the project, earlier in the year.

Byron Graham indicated that something will be coming in the Reflections in the next few weeks re: sign-ups. He shared that a good financial base has been established for the Habitat project, and that we have funds available for the fall deposit towards the '04 house. We will be working with J'town UM, Watkins UM, and Epiphany UM on this first Habitat house.

Concerns and Praises/Closing

Praises from Julie Jones for college graduates.

Praises from Bonnie MacDonald for recent Caregivers' Conference, as well as recent class of Stephen Ministers who "graduated"

Prayers for the caregivers within our congregation

Prayers from Robin Powell for the Youth trip

Prayers from Wayne Jones for our troops still stationed in other parts of the world

Praises for the Handbell mission to Nigeria

Prayers from Scott Dickens for Michael Bolden and family, following Michael's father's death

Prayers for the Brown family

Prayers from Byron Graham for his brother's mother-in-law, battling lung cancer

Prayers from Sandy Bock for her daughter's mother-in-law, battling lung cancer as well

Prayers from Chuck Fischer for his co-worker, Ron, undergoing a spinal fusion procedure

Dr. Jean Hawxhurst closed with a prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Faulkner
Recording Secretary

Next Ministry Team meeting: Monday, June 16
Next Administrative Council meeting: Monday, July 21