

**Christ Church United Methodist
Administrative Council Meeting
9/15/03**

Call to Order/Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Sandy Bock. Dan Stokes led the group in our opening hymn, which was followed by a devotional from Dr. Strunk.

He talked about just having come from the CCUM staff retreat, where Jennie Weeks had led a devotion re: the symbolism of re-melting “used-up” candles to make one new large candle, and when things seem “used up” or broken, by combining them, the impact can be very powerful. Dr. Strunk shared some words by Max Lucado in “A Gentle Thunder”, which highlight the lives of siblings Martha, Mary and Lazarus. Martha’s gift was that of service, beating steadily like a bass drum. Mary’s gift was a life of praise, sitting at Jesus’ feet, which Lucado likens to a lyrical flute. Lazarus was like a trumpet, providing a testimony and witness after being raised from the grave. Dr. Strunk stressed that all of these instruments are needed to make the “music” of the Gospel, just as we all have our own gifts, our own roles to play within the Church, and that together, we can be a powerful voice in sharing God’s love. Dr. Strunk then closed with a prayer, and the question...What is your instrument, and are you playing it??

Corrections to the minutes were made in two areas:

-Neil Kuvin’s comments re: the Long Range Plan for CCUM were corrected from “5-10 year plan”, to “20-30 year plan”

-“Sanctuary expansion” was added as an opportunity for additional space within Phil Gayhart’s review of the Facilities Plan

The minutes were then approved as corrected by the council.

Ministry Teams

Steve Chappars announced October 20 as the next Ministry Team meeting. This will be the last team meeting for the year, and Steve asked those that are rotating off their respective teams to please get things in order for their replacement. He asked for detailed info for the newsletter to be submitted by the first week in October. Steve also stressed the urgency of each Ministry Team to respond to Neil Kuvin’s Long Range Planning committee any thoughts, suggestions, feedback, etc. Sandy Bock also added commentary about the importance of our congregation’s attendance at the upcoming LRP committee meetings, which are designed to share information and gain feedback from the CCUM membership.

Pastor’s Report

Dr. Strunk deferred to Dan Stokes and Laurie Scarborough to provide a report on their efforts in addressing the worship service/space issues. A task force was formed last February, to conduct focus groups and interviews with constituents of CCUM. The resulting ideas were used to develop brainstorming tools, which helped eventually determine how best to maximize the use of our sanctuary. A matrix was formulated in deciding who to talk with, both “traditional” and “non-traditional” groups, which represented a good cross-section of the CCUM membership. The end result produced 5 groups, with 15 different constituents. A list of requirements re: Sunday morning worship included scheduling choices for families; preference for a traditional

worship service; no conflict with Sunday School; preference for 11:00 music; fellowship before/after worship; and Dr. Strunk's preaching gift.

Recommendations from the team included:

- Provide additional worship opportunities (add new 9:40 worship service...move existing 8:40 service to 8:30 start)
- Create a new paradigm for Christian education (add small group scheduling opportunities at 8:30 and 11:00...seed the new schedule with existing Sunday School classes.) Other ideas include "Express Sunday School," with a 30-minute Bible lesson, and a young adult Sunday School in a coffee shop venue.
- Dr. Strunk would preach at the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. services, and would also be the primary preacher at the 9:40 service. Staffing changes may be recommended to allow Dr. Strunk the time for preparation and preaching, with re-alignment of other responsibilities amongst other church staff.
- Redefine the music program, which will place the stronger music focus on the 8:30 and 11:00 services. Dan will also utilize various music ensembles for the 9:40 service. The sanctuary choir will need upgrading, in anticipation of three worship services there on Sunday mornings, and the balcony will be utilized more. A more uniform look will be addressed with the Youth choirs, to demonstrate a sense of awe/reverence.
- Create a culture of fellowship. We have a great place, i.e. Fellowship Hall, to offer opportunities for people to gather before and after worship on Sundays. Lunch after the 11:00 worship service is one option. Recognitions (i.e. Scout Sunday, etc.) could be handled in Fellowship Hall. A coffee shop is a possibility, which might be open and active throughout the week for various small group functions.
- All of these things will work together to create movement within and more effective use of our building. Other opportunities include a larger screen w/ projector in the chapel for the elderly; redesigning parking lot flow; simultaneous worship in fellowship hall and the sanctuary on High Holy Days, with a live feed into fellowship hall; providing live feed and/or archived sermons on the CCUM website

Plans are to incorporate the new 9:40 service sometime during Advent...possibly the last Sunday in November or in early December. A motion was made and seconded to add the 9:40 Sunday church service, and was subsequently approved by the Council.

Treasurer's Report

Kathy Graham reported that we currently have \$392,063. in cash, and \$387,959. in deferred revenues, which are pre-payment funds for our pre-school.

Currently, we are missing our budget by \$84,975. YTD, which is due to several factors. We are currently behind in apportionments by some \$22,500.

The preschool is under budget by some \$34,000., however September forward is revenue-producing. Kathy commended the preschool group for making some major improvements from this same time last year.

We are ahead by almost 5% in actual contributions compared to this time last year, but our contributed revenue is behind by \$176,000. through August. We will need to collect \$903,000. over the last four months of 2003 to meet our operating budget. The Finance Committee feels that this is fairly typical of CCUM at this time...usually most of this money will come in during the last two weeks of the year. Plans are under way to make the congregation aware of this

situation through various channels, and to remind folks to “catch up” on pledges/contributions. Currently, we have a net operating loss of \$129,500 YTD.

Trustees’ Report

Robert Pfeiffer announced a Trustees’ meeting tomorrow night to vote on the design for the new Memorial Garden. This is the last of the trustees’ projects. Two proposals are being presented, both of which will be within budget (just under \$30,000.) The group had an initial budget of \$127,000. to work with, and has completed several projects including air conditioning, carpeting, painting, ceiling replacement, landscaping improvements, construction of a brick walkway, and finally, the construction of our new Memorial Garden.

Old Business

Neil Kuvin provided an update on the progress of the Long Range Planning group. He stressed the importance of our congregation’s attendance at upcoming informational meetings. He will meet this Saturday with the Methodist Men. Other opportunities for the CCUM membership to share ideas with the Long Range Planning committee include meetings on Sunday, September 21 at 12:15, as well as Sunday, October 5 at 9:30 a.m. and 12:15. On October 11, the committee will assemble a final plan to present to the Charge Conference on November 17. Neil praised Dan and Laurie’s work, and subsequent recommendations, as being extremely helpful to the Long Range Planning committee.

New Business

Lee Ray announced a January 12 retreat for Adult Leadership training. She is looking for input re: ideas to address in developing more effective leaders. Lee provided a survey for the Administrative Council to fill out re: any thoughts, ideas, etc. to cover at the January retreat. Sandy Bock received a request from the 7th grade Sunday School class (upcoming confirmands), asking to collect donations during the Sunday School hour on 9/28, 10/5, and 10/12. The funds will be used to purchase bikes and helmets for Abraham and Chol, our newest Sudanese “adoptees.” A motion was made, seconded, and passed to support this collection by the 7th graders.

A comment was shared re: the importance of including an education component as part of our new Saturday evening worship service. Small group opportunities are being addressed, either before or after the worship service, and will be communicated when logistics are in place.

Concerns and Praises, Closing Prayer

Praises for Wenda Fischer for her tireless dedication to our Sudanese friends

Praises/prayers for Abraham and Chol

Praises for Bobbie Larkin and her St. MAM Team

Praises for Norma Sledge and the Wesley Manor Golf Scramble

Prayers for Bob and Phyllis Wilson

Prayers for Paul Watson w/upcoming surgery

Praise for the Stewardship team; prayers for Stewardship Sunday, in anticipation of full commitment and participation by CCUM congregation

Prayers/praises for 10 new Disciple and Companion classes

Praise for the new Children’s curriculum

Prayers/praises for all our small groups and their dedicated leaders

Prayers for the finances of CCUM
Prayers for upcoming By Faith We Serve workshops
Praise for Lee Ray's outstanding enthusiasm and leadership
Prayers for those not in attendance of Ad Council meeting
Praises for Dan Stokes and Laurie Scarborough, as well as others contributing to the Worship Scheduling team
Praises for the energy of Dr. Strunk, preparing to preach at the new 3rd service on Sunday mornings
Prayers/praises for Dan as he takes on additional challenges w/music for the 3rd worship service
Prayers for the staff who will be affected by our preaching changes, as well as Staff Parish Relations committee
Praises for our Trustees
Praises/prayers for our Long Range Planning committee
Prayers for the upcoming budget process, beginning October 6
Prayers for the upcoming Leadership Planning retreat
Praises for the Habitat Crew. The job was completed on time, with the house being dedicated the end of September.
Praises for our 7th grade confirmands, and their service to the community.
Prayers for our country's continued healing, post 9/11.

Walt Kunau closed with a "Prayer for the Nations", written by Reinhold Neibuhr.
Next Ministry team meeting is Monday, October 20, and next Ad Council meeting will be Monday, November 17.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Faulkner
Recording Secretary