

**Christ Church United Methodist
Administrative Council
September 19, 2005**

Call to Order/Hymn/Devotional

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Rick Ashton. Dan Stokes led group in opening hymn. Rick Rittenhouse then provided our devotional time, focusing on Psalm 8...”O Lord, our Lord...how majestic is Your name in all the earth.” Rick talked about tapping into God’s power through prayer. He reflected on a recent message from Bishop Morgan about “keeping the main thing the main thing,” and being cognizant of slowing life down to take time to talk and listen to God. Rick then played a song by Michael W. Smith, whose lyrics encourage us to come back to the heart of worship.

Approval of Minutes

Corrections to July minutes were offered by Wenda Fischer, clarifying that Christ Church as a whole was honored at the recent UM Conference for its Missions programs and Refugee Program. July minutes were then approved.

St. MAM Food Drive

Jennifer Arington shared that next Wednesday is the kickoff for the annual St. MAM Food Drive. Baskets will be placed throughout the church, with weekly food requests being listed in Reflections and the Bulletin for next few weeks. Fourteen member churches are participating. A fundraising dinner will be held here at CCUM on November 15 in Fellowship Hall. The Annual Turtle Soup dinner, also a major fundraising effort, will be held this Saturday. Hank Hensley and Skeet Jones are CCUM’s other representatives with St. MAM.

Ministry Teams

Outreach – Wenda Fischer reviewed a written report providing an update of Refugee Educational Scholarship Fund, since its inception. From a balance of \$6600., the Scholarship Fund has awarded \$3000. to Abraham Bul, \$1850. to Ajaang Deng, and \$400. to Helen Tadesse.

Disaster Relief – Leigh Ray provided an update re: Hurricane Relief efforts. UMCOR donations totaled \$270,355.77, with nearly 10% coming from CCUM. Thirteen Methodist parsonages were damaged in Mississippi and Louisiana. Charlie Douglas has a team currently in Pascagoula (sp?). Leigh shared that 35-40 people recently attended a meeting here at Christ Church re: mission trips for Katrina relief, with 14 actually able to go. Eight people are signed up for medical missions, although they are not able to go to Mississippi, because of no licensure there. We are hoping to partner with other churches in the Brownsboro Road area to become a Disaster Relief Church. CCUM has decided to help sponsor affected families who have arrived in Louisville with housing and furniture...Ginny Heyburn will coordinate trucks for furniture delivery. Leigh is looking for additional involvement in various ways from the congregation. Please see our website for details.

Ministry Team Fair –Sandy Brashear offered thanks to all the ministry teams who participated in the Ministry Team Fair. She is also interested in any feedback, to make any improvements for next year.

MOMS & Parent Ministry Team w/Church School – Becky Morris highlighted Parent Ministry Team plans to implement programs for families of children in our pre-school. The “Mothers of Preschoolers”, i.e. MOPS, has changed to MOMS (Moms Offering Moms Support.) This group meets the 3rd Thursday of each month to discuss various topics relevant to mothers with young children. They also have a monthly newsletter. This group was started in January of 2004 with 10 women on a steering committee. Twenty women attended the first meeting. The group has now grown to 125 women!! This is open to all moms, regardless of church affiliation. Average attendance is 45-60 women per month, with 60% being non-CCUM members. Several have joined Christ Church, as a result of their initial introduction through the MOMS meetings.

Pastors’ Report

Aaron Mansfield praised the very successful concert with Derrick Webb, which was part of a recent Saturday Fellowship service. We are trying to reach more people than we have previously, and are finding ways such as this concert to do that. Over 425 people were here, almost all college-aged kids. Carrie Newcomer, another very gifted singer/songwriter, will be here on October 15. Aaron encouraged the group to attend!! A coffee house is being held after each Fellowship service, and the name recognition is beginning to build. The goal is to reach young people who don’t necessarily know much about Jesus Christ.

George expressed to the group what a joy it is to work with the entire CCUM staff. He highlighted Leigh Ray’s efforts with the Disaster Relief ministry, and how she shines in these moments!! He also praised Dan and the incredible music ministry here, as well as Aaron’s heart for evangelism. Jennie Weeks continues to organize wonderful small group opportunities. We are rejoicing with Rebecca Heid, after having finished her cancer treatment. Melissa Mansfield will visit Vanderbilt for a second opinion, hopefully having finished her treatment as well.

George stressed that it’s time for this congregation to shine with our Disaster Relief efforts. We can not only provide physical relief, but must offer spiritual relief as well. George is hearing from the evacuees that the church has become so important to them.

Building Update – On August 1, Phase I was resubmitted to the Board of Zoning & Adjustment, and was rejected by a vote of 3-2. We are being told that we must enforce a buffer zone 30 feet off Brownsboro Road, which would potentially eliminate the entire front parking area. We have filed an appeal and complaint re: this parking restriction, due to the fact that we’re not increasing our square footage by 50%...thus the Zoning Board would have no jurisdiction. This may give us grounds to re-approach them in October or November.

We currently have a several-million-dollar gap between original estimates and current figures. A more workable budget is necessary, and we’re trying to reach a consensus re: how much debt we might consider taking on to complete the project. George is hopeful that we’ll be able to hold a church-wide conference to vote on this issue before

Thanksgiving. Potential changes could include: downsizing the Family Life Center to 7000 sq. ft. per floor, downsizing sanctuary size, changing infrastructure re: heating/AC. Dan Burgess has volunteered to be the communications liaison with the congregation. The over-riding consensus is that we must take this aggressive step to build, in order to continue to grow here at Christ Church. A downward spiral can potentially start if the membership isn't growing, and George stressed to the group that it's worth the effort to make sure this doesn't happen.

Staff Parish Relations

Pam Knight echoed George's thoughts re: our amazing staff. Pam praised Barb Schissler's dedication...always ready with anything requested of her!! Pam also thanked Bonnie Macdonald, who has taken on additional responsibilities in the past few years, and has touched many lives here at Christ Church.

We have recently promoted Adina Cook from Associate Director to Director of Children's Ministries, and we're currently working to fill the Associate's position!

Trustees Report

Ted Champion gave an overview of a recent Trustees discussion re: purchase of shuttle buses for CCUM. Centenary UMC has provided extensive information re: their experience w/acquiring similar buses. We will need 2 buses, each holding 26-33 passengers, one with a wheelchair lift. The Finance Committee has approved fundraising for this, with Jim Crain handling a "quiet" campaign amongst a few potential donors. Cost could be up to \$100,000...but the group is hoping to also get help from local dealers.

A Transportation Management Team will be formed, which will secure drivers, and administer schedules, maintenance, and procedures.

We currently spend about \$22,000./year on transportation (the current Sunday shuttle costs \$6500./yr.) These new shuttles will cost approx. \$13,500./year for maintenance and operation.

The question was raised re: expenditure of resources right now vs. being at the critical point with our building program. It was suggested that we need to evaluate the "big picture" and where we want to spend our money. Ted reiterated that the staff has brought this issue to the Trustees to pursue. The thought is that we're being hampered re: ministry with transportation issues that affect our youth, our adults, and our seniors. Ted will return to the Ad Council once funds are raised to request approval for purchase.

Treasurer's Report

Mark Jackson shared that we are about 10-13% behind at this point in the year...very consistent with years past. A committee is being assembled to help evaluate proper management of funds already given for building project...currently in excess of \$1 million. Proposals will be solicited from various banks, and a final recommendation will be brought to Admin Council. Our annual audit report is finished, and came back very favorable.

Stewardship

Stewardship Sunday is November 13.

New Business

Christmas falls on Sunday this year, and George shared that Christ Church will hold a regular Fellowship service on Saturday evening, along with our traditional Christmas Eve service. On Sunday, we will hold one service, at 11:00 a.m., with a fellowship time beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Praises and Prayer Concerns

- Joe Helm's death
- Melissa Mansfield's health report
- Allan Horrar – decisions re: future care
- Christ Church Cares Day – October 22 (leadership and projects in place)
- Fellowship Service
- Church Staff
- Weekday school and MOMS program
- Hurricane evacuees
- Building project
- New carpool plan for preschool!
- Phyllis Wilson
- Rob Stockwell's brother was displaced by hurricane...recently moved to Baton Rouge. Much uncertainty re: what he'll find upon returning home.
- UMW Kids Consignment sale

Leigh Ray closed with prayer. Rick Ashton adjourned meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Faulkner