

IVY CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
April 27, 2009

ATTENDING: Beth Cantrell, Gary Cornwell, Kathy Haugh, Mary Hodges, Evelyn Jones, Gary Myers, Rhiannon Pattison, Carol Pharr, Claude Sandy, Lynne Steppe, Rosy Stone, Scott Stone (Chair), Pastor Jim Thornton, Teddi Schrock, Don Tuttle, Betty Wingfield, and Clark Wyant.

Scott called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. Evelyn led a devotional, inviting others to participate, then summarizing and closing with a prayer.

The minutes of the March 31, 2009, meeting were approved as submitted.

Reports:

- **Congregational Care** – Teddi reported they are including the Weekly Reader with the church bulletin to Kim, Herman, Lennie, Millie, and Joann. Harold also participates in the ministry of congregational care.
- **Education** – Rhiannon’s submitted report follows: Sunday school classes are continuing with two children’s classes and two adult classes. Adding a third children’s class in being explored. Christian Arts Academy planning is underway. This year we will have a theme such as “God in Art” or God through Art” with a specific focus and scripture each day. We are hoping to involve more committees, such as outreach, UMM and worship, in the planning and implementing.
- **Westview** – No report.
- **Missions** – Kim’s submitted report follows: During the month of May, the Missions Committee is focusing on building enthusiasm within our congregation for establishing a covenant relationship with missionaries Mark and Linda Stransky, who serve in Marion, VA. We will do this by having articles in the Weekly Reader and having "Missions Moments" during worship services. On May 10th, Nancy Palmer, who has done mission work in Cuba, will give the sermon. Linda Stransky has also expressed interest in coming to speak to Ivy Creek.
- **Outreach** – No report.
- **Scouts** – No report.
- **Finance/Treasurer** – Gary distributed financial reports, and reported improvement in offerings relative to budget.
- **Stewardship** – No report.
- **Trustees** – No report.

- **Building** – No report.
- **Sarah's Circle** – Carol's submitted report indicated they will make more UMCOR kits and are planning an end-of-year luncheon at Doubletree.
- **Wesley Foundation** – No report.
- **UM Men** – No report.
- **Bicentennial** – Rosy's submitted report indicated they have a few loose end to attend to regarding the wrap-up of the bicentennial celebration, they are still gathering materials for the time capsule, and they are working on a commemorative booklet to be completed soon.
- **Webmaster** – No report.
- **Lay leaders** – No report.
- **Staff Parish Relations** – In a report submitted by Beth, she planned to meet with Lynne Steppe from trustees for the annual parsonage review on Sunday, May 3, 12:00. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 4, 7 – 8 p.m.
- **Administration** – No report.
- **Music** – In a report submitted by Becky, she listed the following activities:
 - I continue to gather completed survey/questionnaires from choir members so that a summary of suggestions can be created.
 - All music for Lenten, Palm Sunday, and Easter services have been planned.
 - A call to all musicians in the church has been extended to those who might be interested in participating in the choirs, or perform solo work during a service when the choir is not present. The response has been positive and allows our community to become more involved with our music program.

During the month of January 2009 Beth Cantrell, Rosy Stone, Mim Coughenour, and Grant Quertermous all performed.

 - I continue to gather information about a new instrument/keyboards for the Sanctuary.
 - Planning for the Arts Academy has begun. The music department plans to be involved by offering (5) classes: Choir, Handbells, Guitar, Percussion, and Drama/Theater.
 - Planning a Music Sunday in May to highlight and spotlight the music program at Ivy Creek. This is to include the choir, handchimes, handbells, hymn sing, and other individual performances. The theme will be Humor and the fun in participating in a church music program.

Her expectations/needs/goals are:

 - Creation of a Small Choir Group to sing at Funeral Services when requested.
 - Trade in piano that is currently in the Sanctuary for another clavier instrument.

- Plan Theory Workshops
 - Plan Choir and Handchime Retreat Days
 - Plan Choir and Handchime Performances for our local community. i.e. Nursing Homes, etc.
 - Consider adding a 3rd service to be held on Sunday Evenings
 - Consider music program for said service; Praise Band, etc.
 - Work with youth on music performances
 - Begin serenading church member shut-ins.
 - Consider beginning a Handbell Choir, in addition to the Handchimes.
- **Worship** – No report.

New Business:

- Funding for George Neas, who will lead ICUMC through the New Consecration Sunday process – He has lost his job with the Virginia Conference; therefore, there is a need to fund his travel and time. Don suggested an honorarium of \$750 and travel expenses of \$250, for a total of \$1,000. To cover the cost, Council approved taking \$500 from the contingency fund, if other funds are not available when needed.
- Funding for membership directory – Rosy indicated the cost was \$1,020 while the budget was only \$500. Gary approved going over the budget and asking recipients of directories for contributions.
- Purchase of electronic media devices for approximately \$350, per Darrell Schiebel’s recommendation – Council approved.

Reflection and Discussion:

- Topic 1: Sunday attendance appears to be down. What can be done? Pastor Jim shared that attendance was down in 2008 compared to 2007 by 8-9 persons. Several suggestions were considered, including: (1) consider revising the vision statement; (2) develop ministries that meet needs; (3) use the newspaper’s free space to get the church more exposure; (4) increase the number of people doing outreach; (5) consider incorporating a more vibrant program to appeal to younger people; (6) we are an older church and must attract younger members; (7) we should stop limiting God; (8) the FRAN plan; (9) add a contemporary service, which will need to be defined; (10) build on strengths and work on weaknesses; and (11) establish partnerships with other churches to form a more active youth program. No conclusions were reached, but we were asked to consider these and other ideas.
- Topic 2: Pastor Jim plans to lead a discussion of the “Five Talent Academy Covenant” and “Lead Team Covenant” which were distributed last month. This discussion can provide an opportunity to enhance the way we engage in ministry together and in the pursuit of larger goals. It is just starting in the Charlottesville area. We would work with other churches and have their support. Council approved.

Pastor Jim suggested that we spend some time with the FRAN plan, and contact one person who attends ICUMC whom you haven't seen for awhile. He then closed the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, 2009, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Claude Sandy