

White Plains United Methodist Church, Inc. Church Council & Board of Directors Meeting

Sunday, January 21st, 2007

The White Plains United Methodist Church Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on January 21st, 2007. Council Chair Bruce Cranfill called the room to order at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was opened with prayers and songs led by Rev. Ray Broadwell and Rev. Kelly Lyn Logue.

Bruce had Council members introduce themselves by stating their name and an interesting fact about themselves. Bruce reviewed the mission, vision, and values of WPUMC. He asked us to remember the purpose of the Church Council:

To carry out the mission, vision and values of WPUMC by enabling and assisting the leaders representing the functional church organization to effectively plan and execute their strategies.

Bruce also went over “Bruce’s Rules of Order.” He asked that these meetings be considered as worshipful experiences that we want to come to for the love of Christ and for the love of this church. Issues that are to be discussed at the Council meeting should be prayed about and emailed to Bruce before the meeting. Meetings will start on time and he will do his best to make sure the meetings end on time.

Additionally:

- Committee Chairs are encouraged to email their reports to Susan Gentry before the meeting and to bring a hard copy of the report to the meeting.
- Minutes from the Council meetings will be emailed to Council members within 10 days whenever possible for their review.
- Council members should review minutes and submit any requests for changes, corrections, or additions within 1 week of receipt.
- Revised and final minutes will be posted on the WPUMC website to facilitate communications between the Council and the larger congregation whom we represent.
- Suggestions to make the Council more effective should be directed to Bruce (becranfill@earthlink.net, 466-7166).

OLD BUSINESS

The November 2006 Council minutes were accepted and approved with no corrections or additions.

CHURCH STAFF REPORTS

Director of Music Ministries, Laura Minick

- No report - Laura was not present at the meeting.

Director of Children's Ministries, Carol Carawon

NOTE: Full report is available.

- Carol reflected upon “Seeking, Searching, Looking” in this new year in her personal and professional life
- SPRC is seeking a Children’s Ministries Assistant who can be a partner in ministry and enable Carol to virtually be in two places at once, especially on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings.
- Carol is searching for new ideas, programs, and up-to-date innovations in teaching and learning that will draw children from the community to our church.
- Please generously support Children’s Ministries whenever and wherever you can by attending events, volunteering in Sunday School, nursery, or for special events, providing positive feedback to the children and Carol, and by praying continually.
- The 2nd Annual Teddy Bear Tea will be held on Feb. 10th for women ages 3-103. Please bring a teddy bear that will be donated to a local charity.

Director of Youth Ministries, Rob Phillips

- Rob was not present at the meeting as he was on the Senior High Retreat. Dan Baer reported that Discovery for the Mid-Highs will be held Feb. 16th-18th. On Feb. 17th at 7 p.m. there will be a prayer service for Discovery; the congregation is encouraged to attend to make a visual statement to the Mid-Highs as to how much they are loved.

Coordinator of Adult, Lay, and Family Ministries, Lorrinda Janik

NOTE: Full Report is available

- There were an abundance of gifts for the shoppers at the 2nd Annual Secret Angel Shop.
- The Lay Leadership Training on Jan. 6th went well.
- Two new 11:00 Sunday school classes have begun; one is a multi-generational class and the other is a class for 18-28 year olds. A new singles class is forming and will meet at 9:45 as soon as a room is located.
- All Sunday school classes are studying “40 Days of Transformation: Treasures of the Transformed Life.”
- The second “Companions in Christ: The Way of Forgiveness” class began on Jan. 10th with 20 attendees. The Thursday morning class studying “The Frazzled Female: Finding Peace in the Midst of Daily Life” study has 8 participants. The “Fingerprints of God: Recognizing God’s Touch on Your Life” study has 23 participants. Childcare is being provided.
- Television systems have been mounted to the walls in each downstairs adult classroom as well as in the Pathfinders Class upstairs. The old Library has a system on a shelf and there is one rolling cart for the Epiphany Class. One television in reserve for the singles class that is beginning soon. This eliminates the need to reserve or share systems.
- We are collecting stuffed animals for the Cary Police Department. They will give these “fuzzy friends” to children in crisis situations.
- Upcoming Events:
 - A new Movie Club is beginning. We will watch a movie together and then discuss how that movie relates to our Christian walk. Our first meeting will be Friday, Feb. 2nd at 7pm. We will be watching “Romero”. We will be meeting every other month.
 - The marriage study that begins in Feb. will be using Adam Hamilton’s Making Love Last a Lifetime. Sign up sheets are out and we are still looking for a facilitator.
 - The following studies will be offered for the fall. Facilitators have been secured all them all.
 - Companions in Christ: The Way of Forgiveness led by Larry Jones;
 - Christian Believer led by Pastor Kelly Lyn;
 - Christianity and World Religions: Wrestling with Questions People Ask led by Pastor Ray;
 - Disciple 1 led by Barb Klimala;
 - Living the Word led by Jane Harrod and many other leaders;

- two Thursday Morning Women's Bible Studies led by Beth Lavery and Lorrinda;
- the Crafting Guild led by Betsy Gifford and her helpers.
- A New Member reception will be held on Sunday, March 4th for those new to White Plains. Invitations will be mailed out in the next couple of weeks.

Pastor of Visitation, Rev. Ken Sexton

NOTE: Full report is available.

- The Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays were a great time of ministering and sharing to our members who were shut-in, ill, lonely, and who had problems. Visitation and remembrances were given to those who were home at the time of the visit. The Closer Walk Sunday School Class took our visitation list and nearly covered everyone with a visit and a gift. They left Pastor Ken about 12 members to visit.
- The youth and youth counselors went out Christmas caroling to about 20 homes, which included many on our visitation list. This was very much appreciated by those visited. The youth and music department deserve a vote of appreciation for this special ministry.
- Several people of our church, beyond our Stephen Ministry, have committed to help and visit a church member on a regular basis. This is a beautiful form of ministry.

Pastor of Membership Care and Evangelism, Rev. Kelly Lyn Logue

NOTE: Full report is available.

- DISCOVERY is coming, Feb. 16-18th. There will be Church wide prayer service for Discovery, Sat. Feb. 17th at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. Please be here to worship and pray individually for our Mid-High youth.
- Lent begins in Feb, with Ash Wednesday on Feb. 21st. We will have a service at 7 pm that night in the Sanctuary. There will be no dinners or classes that evening.
- During Lent this year we are beginning something new called "Rice and Readings" which will be held at the Noon hour on Thursdays. We will gather around a simple meal of plain rice and share in Lenten Readings and reflections on Thursdays through Holy Thursday.

- Pastor Kelly Lyn distributed a handout on “How to Join WPUMC”. This flyer is what is given to persons who are interested in joining the membership at White Plains. It’s also available on the website. This process has been used for quite a while to guide new members, but having it on paper will help us to be even more consistent and forth coming.
- The next Basics Class will be offered on the Sundays in March from 5-7pm. Sign ups will be available for that in the coming weeks.
- The next W2WP Coffee Hours will be held in May.

Senior Pastor, Rev. Ray Broadwell

- As noted by Lorrinda, the Movie Club will meet six times this year. “Romero,” a story of the life of Archbishop Oscar Romero, will be the Feb. movie. “Brother Son, Sister Moon,” a story about St. Francis of Assisi, will be the movie in Sept. After each movie, the group will discuss how the witness exhibited in the movie speaks to us as a faithful congregation.
- In March each member of the Church Council will receive the book Praying in the Wesleyan Spirit by Paul Chilcote.
- We have been invited by the District Superintendent to be in the “multiplying ministry”. Eight healthy churches in the area are participating in a 5-night study of how to theologically fill positions of leadership and development. This is at no cost except for the five nights of time.
- Pastor Ray thanked the church for our faithfulness and for being a generous Christ-centered, kingdom building church.

The Council was invited to take a stretch break at 8:30.

MINISTRY AREA REPORTS

Outreach/ Dave DeMaster

NOTE: Full report is available.

- Dave reviewed the Outreach budget for 2006 and 2007. The Outreach ministry is funded by Faith-Promise giving plus half of the Fair Booth funds and direct monies for specific ministries. In 2006, Faith-Promise giving totaled \$52,913, the highest amount thus far. For

some ministries monies are saved before the ministry is implemented. For example, the International Work Team is does a mission trip every other year, so monies were saved from the 2006 budget to contribute to the 2007 trip.

- We are looking into adding shower and washer/dryer facilities for use by WIHN guests when they stay with us on-site.
- White Plains worked with five other churches in the area to complete five Habitat for Humanity homes in Cary in 2006.
- White Plains was a Rainbow Covenant Church for 2006.
- We are exploring the possibility of providing outreach meals to the community at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The following motion from the Outreach Ministry work area was offered by Dave DeMaster:

Outreach Ministries moves that \$5,500 from the remaining 2005 Fair Booth funds be transferred to the Outreach Faith-Promise Account to support two work teams to D'iberville (\$1,800) and an international work team to Peru during 2007 (\$3,700).

Discussion: Dave explained that the Peru trip will be to help build a parsonage and repair the church roof. The Trustees have approved the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Nurture/ Pat LiVecchi

NOTE: Full report is available.

- Nurture hosted the 2nd annual Lay Leadership Training on Jan. 6th. It was a good day of fellowship and learning.
- Wings held a brunch in Jan.; about 40 women attended. A women's retreat will be held March 23rd-25th.
- The United Methodist Men are looking for some new blood in their leadership.
- The Traditional service at 11 a.m. needs additional users. Better communication is requested with the ushers on special events, so they will know in advance when other groups will be ushering or when there are requests for something other than normal during the service.

- A new Stephen Ministry training class is underway. There are 7 members from White Plains and two from other area churches. Commissioning is scheduled for March 25th.

Witness/ Barbara Parker

NOTE: Full report is available.

- The overall goal of the Witness Ministry Area is to help our congregation become excited about the opportunities and blessings of sharing the love of God thru Jesus Christ with our church family and the community.
- The Ambassador/Greeter program is praying and initiating ideas to promote radical hospitality.
- The Evangelism team is working to identify their areas of concentration for 2007 sharing Jesus without Fear.
 - The new Alpha course started January 15th
 - The Bible Club at Briarcliff Elementary is successful.
 - The next Wesley Forum event is April 18 with Dr. Paul Chilcote, president of the International Wesley Society.
 - At the Cary Christmas Parade 2-3,000 goodie bags were given out proclaiming “**Jesus Christ as Lord**” to the community.
- In the Hospitality Room, Debbie Brown provides a welcoming environment for all people attending White Plains.
- The Neighborhood Relations team gave personal invitations to 75 families that surround our church to attend the Christmas services at White Plains. They were very receptive to the invitations, but we don’t know if they attended.
- Families are reminded to please only park one car in the main lot on Sunday mornings. Also, please save visitor spaces for visitors and do not to park on our neighbors’ grass.
- Visitation - Ken Sexton: “Take the gospel of the Lord to those in Need.” This team is working on ways to support the visitation ministry to our “shut-ins and members with Special Concerns.”
- As the Membership Care team meets on multiplying miracles, they are praying that it will help us to miraculously multiply our volunteers. We hope to divide the Membership care/Visitation groups.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustees/ Ivan Bowman

NOTE: Full report (with pictures) is available.

- Some of the recent actions include:
 - Repair of the pathway lights from the parking lot to the parsonage.
 - Repair of the “globe lights” on Ralph Drive entrance.
 - Insulation of the walls in sanctuary furnace room to correct the heating problem.
 - Installation of new flooring in the Annex - carpet in several areas and tiling downstairs.
 - Refrigerator repair at Annex.
 - Mounting of 7 TVs on walls in CLC.
- Current or planned activities:
 - Sink repairs in Children’s wing are underway - 2 new faucets and caulking.
 - “Safe sanctuaries” windows in 2 doors - pastors’ offices.
 - Numerous repairs to the Annex - lights, windows, air conditioner unit, etc.
 - Memorial garden work.
- Member assistance in a plumbing repair would be much appreciated.
- Under consideration but not approved:
 - Repairs and upgrades in the CLC - Refrigerator and icemaker, electrical circuit breakers, improvements to accommodate “Interfaith” activities.

SPRC/ Mark Brown

- We are currently searching for these new hires: a Children’s Ministry Assistant, a Handbell Choir Director, and an Accompanist for the Youth Choir.

Finance/ Jim Middleton

NOTE: Report is available.

- Approximately \$40,000 more was contributed in Dec. 2006 than in Dec. 2005.
- The cash balance on hand at the end of the year was approximately \$58,000.
- The Debt Retirement loan continued to be amortized at the same level to pay off the loan in approximately 15 years.

- A decision on the use of the excess funds has been postponed until the March meeting after getting suggestions from the Council and the congregation.
- The 2007 budget is ~10% higher than the 2006 budget, but the 2006 budget had been a reduction over previous years.

Two motions from the Finance Committee were offered by Jim Middleton:

1. Motion to amend the 2007 budget to reinstate the line item of support for ministerial students in the amount of \$1,000 each. The amended budget amount will be increased to \$1,318,021.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Motion to create a temporary account item in the 2006 financial statements entitled “Contingency Funds from 2006 Revenue” to allocate cash balance from 2006 to this account until final use of these funds is determined.

The motion passed unanimously.

Stewardship/ William McMillian

NOTE: Full report is available.

- The Stewardship Ministry expressed their thanks to long-time member S.B. White and to Steve Davenport for their outstanding service and support to stewardship. Pastor Ray indicated that it was not intended that any members would be removed from the committee and will follow up with Bill on this.
- Stewardship Ministry expressed their thanks to the members of White Plains for the sharing and commitment of their prayers, time, talent, and gifts during 2006, and look forward to the members continued support during 2007.
- On Jan. 23, members of the Stewardship Ministry will meet with other members of White Plains, members of four other local UMCs, and Rev. Ned Hill, Raleigh District Superintendent, to discuss the district-wide stewardship program entitled “The Grow One Challenge.... Taking the Next Step.” Announcements will be forthcoming with reference to the Commitment Sunday / Celebration Brunch / possible Rally Sunday event.

- Current plans are that, at the end of the forty day “Transformed Living Study,” White Plains members will receive a multi-page listing of ministries in the church and will be asked to indicate their interests.
- Our first step in transforming is to increase our commitment to sharing of time and talents.

Long Range Planning and Implementation/ Peter Bishop

- No report - Peter was not present at the meeting.

Endowment/ John Brettschneider

- The committee is trying to determine what they will be doing this year.

New Business:

No new business was discussed other than the motions presented as part of the Outreach Ministry and Finance Committee reports.

The meeting closed at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Sen

Assistant Church Council Recording Secretary