

DALTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH COUNCIL
MARCH 24, 2009
Famber Hall

ATTENDING:

Members:

Curt Adams, Murray Bandy, Cheryl Baucom, Tim Baucom, Paul Belk, John Bowling, Jim Burdick, Paul Byrum, Deck Cheatham, Elaine Coleman, Terry Cullifer, Sandy Elder, Bryan Hair, Joe Hallsworth, Blake King, Lou Kirkman, Lowell Kirkman, C. S. Lee, Jody McClurg, Charles Miller, Doug Renz, Steve Roan, Trammell Scott, Lynn Tunnell, Bob Weathersby, Aquila Wright

At-Large Members:

Fred Avett, Judge Billy Boyett, Jeff Hughes, Gary Johnson, Charles Maret, Mary Pollard, Kerry Sikes

Church Staff:

Rev. Joe Peabody, Rev. Billy Beard, Rev. James Hughes, Rev. Homero Santos, Peter Infanger, Jan Byrum, Susie Brown, Lindsey Laney, Zach Conway

Others Present:

Linda Blackman, Becky Bowling, Fran Brantley, Amy Dinsmore, Louis Fordham, Ron Griffin, Bryan Hair, Chad Jordan, Matt Land, Bryan Macon, Bryan Morton, Carolyn Roan, Laura Rogers, Wyatt Rollins, Alice Squillario

ABSENT:

Members:

Dick Coleman, Dr. Bill McDaniel, Dean Orem, Sue Tuggle, Lynn Tunnell

At-Large Members:

Fran Little, Judge Robert Vining

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING

- (1) Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Joe Hallsworth, Church Council Chair.
- (2) Rev. Billy Beard gave the opening prayer.
- (3) Steve Roan gave the devotional.
- (4) Report on *concerns* was given by Rev. Beard, and a *praise* report was given by Steve Roan.
- (5) Council members were asked to review and participate in the events listed in the Church Calendar section of the meeting agenda. Jim Burdick asked that the Prayer Vigil be added; it will be held in the Chapel beginning April 10 after the Tenebrae Service and will continue until 7 a.m. Easter Sunday. Joe Hallsworth encouraged people to sign up for the Vigil.

II. MINUTES

Action: Upon motion made by Steve Roan and seconded by Jim Burdick, minutes of Church Council's last meeting of February 24, 2009 were approved.

III. FINANCE REPORT

Terry Cullifer, Finance Committee Chair, gave a report as of the end of February, 2009:

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Cash in Bank | \$126,218 |
| Line of Credit (borrowed money) | \$ 438,024 |
| Income (for Feb.) | \$ 199,789 |
| Expenses (for Feb.) | \$ 286,535 |
| SHORTFALL: | (\$86,746) |

“In looking at history,” Terry said, “the figures on income and expenses are almost a mirror of 2007. We have received about 12% of budgeted funds, have spent 17% of budget, and have a deficit of about 5%.”

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Upgrades of Youth Lounge and Famber Hall – “New Development”

Trustees Chair, Blake King, reported that a “hold has been put on going forward on these projects because Temple Beth-El is available to DFUMC if we choose that path. Some folks have been over to look at the Temple.”

According to Rev. Peabody, “A dollar figure has not been set. We have been told of the interest on their part to offer it to us. We need to ask ourselves: if this is the right way to go, what is the highest and best use?” Rev. Peabody suggested that every committee, which wishes to spend the time, ask (1) what is the highest and best use of this property, and (2) if money were no object and no one else cared what we did with it, what would we do? He encouraged others to explore the matter and bring back their findings to Joe Hallsworth. Rev. Peabody said that long term, the Trustees would guide us in the process of coming up with a recommendation.

Discussion followed. Comments included:

- To grow our worship, we should be moving ahead on the Famber Hall and Youth Lounge projects.
- I recommend that the Church buy the Temple building as a capital project.
- Before we spend money, we should decide if we would be better off going with a capital campaign.
- remiX services could be held in the upstairs of the Temple building, and the youth lounge could be located downstairs.
- All options need to be weighed.
- To accomplish two projects in our Church (youth lounge & Famber Hall), we would have to go with the capital campaign route.
- Maybe we should put the Temple building on the “fast track” and see if it is a viable solution.
- We need to look at all the possibilities.
- Years ago our Church owned this property; it seems it would be a great thing to do (to own it again).

Rev. Peabody stated, “We need every person in the Church who is interested to voice their opinion. We need to begin to pool information and ideas and appoint a committee to work with the Trustees to formulate a vision that would become a proposal. It seems that we would want to move forward in a unified way.”

Joe Hallsworth said that we need to know what the congregation wants to do. He challenged Blake King and Lowell Kirkman to get this matter moving as fast as possible. There is a lot to do to get it on the fast track. He asked Council members to “talk with people you know and tell them we want their input. Please tell people that at this point NO decisions have been made.”

V. NEW BUSINESS

Small Groups for Adults

Rev. Peabody reported that he, Matt Land, and Sue Phelps have been in conversation about a new program for small adult groups that would run from Eater to Pentecost. We hope to be in homes and share with each other in small groups. Joe Hallsworth added, “This will be an opportunity to share faith, to learn, and to ask questions.” He urged people to sign up.

Worship Survey

Worship Committee Chair, Jim Burdick, introduced Paul Byrum who gave a detailed powerpoint report on the results of the 12-question worship survey which was conducted over a 14-day period. A page of information outlining the worship questionnaire results was distributed. Generally speaking, people are satisfied with the service they attend, and they are satisfied with the time of the service. There does not seem to be support at this time for a blended service. On behalf of Church Council, Steve Roan expressed sincere thanks to Paul and Jim for their leadership with the worship survey.

Jim Burdick said that we have come to think about Monday as the beginning of the week. Church should not be a destination; it should be the origin from which we go out into the world to share and to serve. It seems that the congregation is ready to move forward, but needs inspiration and leadership. Evangelism and local missions could be included as a *call to ministry* at the end of the service. Jim said that ideas will be sent to evangelism and missions committees. He said they will try to have a sending-forth service once a month or every two months.

Rev. Peabody needs to know who would be willing to share a testimony. “If you have a story to tell, let us know,” said Rev. Beard.

Both Rev. Peabody and Jim said that “personal invitation is the only way to get people here.” Joe Hallsworth said that we have to implement this in the service. He expressed frustration about trying to bring people to Church. “How do we get the momentum started?” he asked. “It has to be a culture change,” added Steve Roan, “and we have to want to do it.” Rev. Peabody said that we have to talk about it. “We have to raise the image that it is something that people can do.”

CBS (Connecting, Building, Sending)

The Joel Group has met and asked Joe Hallsworth and Steve Roan to present a challenge to take back to the Group regarding CBS.

Comments included:

- We need to be talking about how we can make things better, and we can do this by just starting to talk about it in committee meeting. (Steve Roan)
- CBS is a very good tool for guiding us. (Joe Hallsworth)
- Please reach out to members of the Joel Group if you have questions. (Doug Renz)

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustees – Blake King, Chair

- (1) Completed annual inspections on facilities.
- (2) Gym and support areas have been repainted.
- (3) Doors (mentioned in report to Church council, Feb. mtg.) have been ordered and will be installed after three to four weeks.

- (4) Plumbing project begins July 5. First floor of the Church will be without water July 5 through 11.
- (5) The Church has received a gift of carpet from an anonymous donor. It will be installed in the hallways in April.

Weekday Children's Ministry – Jody McClurg, Chair

- (1) Registration for daycare and preschool was held in February. Daycare is full, and the preschool program is 92% full.
- (2) Ladybug Brunch is coming up April 4. Approximately 340 people are expected. Proceeds will be used for the playground.
- (3) Weekday Children's Ministry committee will meet in April.

Youth Committee – Doug Renz, Chair

- (1) Doug encouraged the group not to let the matter of providing improved youth facilities to get pushed aside. He said that the current youth lounge is not a pleasant place to be.
- (2) Committee will meet this Sunday regarding how to formalize youth ministries, then have a call to action.
- (3) We have some challenges in getting consistent volunteers.

A question was raised regarding who is responsible for the youth lounge. Lindsey Laney said she has been talking with the youth about being responsible for taking care of it. Rev. Beard said that when Camp Joy folks are in the lounge, they are eating meals and snacks. Lindsey said they will have to have some regulations.

Endowment – Bob Weathersby, Co-Chair

- (1) Committee has four topics in development and will have information in the CHIMES over the next several months.
- (2) Next meeting of committee is May 14.

Communications – Bryan Hair, Chair

- (1) Continue to get questionnaires filled out.
- (2) Bryan encouraged everyone to go to the Church website every day. It's easy to use. A new server is being installed.
- (3) If you need help in communicating, feel free to contact the Communications Committee.
- (4) Bryan Morton said that the Church is sending out a more visual daily devotional, which is much more pleasing.

Congregational Care – Lou Kirkman, Co-Chair

Approved by Rev. Peabody and scheduled to start after Easter, opportunities will be made available for donations (in honor or in memory) to the Church food pantry or to DOC-UP.

Children's Council – Aquila Wright, Chair

- (1) Easter Baskets are being prepared for foster children and are due back to the Church by March 30.
- (2) Children's Easter Egg Hunt is set for April 11 at the home of Bryan and Donna Hair who are so gracious to host again this year. Hot dog lunch will be served.
- (3) Still talking about Sunday School recruitment. The commitment is for a five-week period.
- (4) Vacation Bible School is scheduled June 22-26 with the theme *Crocodile Dock*.

Food Services – Amy Dinsmore for Sue Tuggle, Chair

Committee had a cleaning day in the kitchen for reorganization and cleaning. Another one will be scheduled.

Missions – Lynnne Tunnell, Co-Chair

- (1) Friendship House is having a fundraiser lunch at The Oakwood on Sunday. Cost is \$8. Drive through take-out can be picked up at the bank across the street from The Oakwood.
- (2) There will be something coming up in March for the community to come together to support the National Guard.
- (3) Next year's Mission Celebration is scheduled January 23-24, 2010.
- (4) Looking into the situation at "tent city" and how we can help.
- (5) Family Promise is expanding its search for qualifying families to Murray County.

Finance and Stewardship – Terry Cullifer, Finance Chair

Finance and Stewardship Committees have cooperated to send thank you notes to those people who have contributed funds to the Church budget during January and February.

United Methodist Men – Rev. Joe Peabody for Bill McDaniel, Chair

The Baptist Church has offered a house to Family Promise. It has three bedrooms, is a little more appropriate, and is larger than what we have now. Our UMM group has been asked "to come fix it." The *current* location of Family Promise will become transitional housing.

VII. STAFF REPORTS

Jan Byrum

- (1) In-depth class, "Created by God," had 16 enrollees, 11 of which were First Methodists.
 - (2) Our major fundraiser, Ladybug Brunch, is April 4. Other fundraisers, Book Sale and Bake Sale, bring in about \$4,000. Income from fundraisers offset expenses of about a half million dollars for our programs.
 - (3) We are looking forward to renovations to the playground - - replace equipment and mulch. We have about \$2,000 to start the playground and have saved about \$35,000 for that purpose.
 - (4) Our daycare and preschool programs have not been inspected yet this year. Inspections are random, unannounced visits. We are very proud of the fact that the inspectors "have to dig" to find things wrong. Because of the good inspections, "we have been dropped to once a year." Jan added, "Our staff really cares for the children and parents."
- Rev. Peabody said, "We almost always hit 99% on inspections for daycare and preschool. I don't think people realize the level of compliance that is typical of our program here at Dalton First. It's one of the best programs I have ever seen."

Lindsey Laney

- (1) We have been meeting in regard to the Youth Lounge renovations.
- (2) We will be meeting with volunteers who work with the youth regarding our goals and purpose, and we'll be working on getting feedback.

Joe Hallsworth reported that he has visited the confirmation class. "It is amazing what the kids have learned and what they know. It's an impressive group. We want to do what we can to get them to stay here as their Church of choice."

Zach Conway

Zach reported that Bryan Morton and Matt Land are taking over the reins of music for remiX.

Trammell Scott reminded everyone that Zach will be leaving at the end of the month to join the U. S. Navy. Trammell expressed appreciation for the contributions that Zach has made to the Church. Zach thanked everyone and said, "This had been a great place to work. Thank you for your friendship." Joe Hallsworth also thanked Zach for his work and told Zach that he will be in our prayers.

VIII. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

- (1) Joe Hallsworth's comments:
 - a. We want to be moving forward.
 - b. We want to create a place where we are serving God and Jesus.
 - c. We want to be make sure that we are doing all that we can do.
 - d. We need to continue working on the good things we are doing.
 - e. He asked the AT-LARGE Church Council members to talk with folks about our Church: tell everyone what is going on and about all the good things that are happening.
- (2) Remarks from others:
 - a. Mary Pollard said that we want to remember who we are; we don't want our Church to change just be what another church is.
 - b. Rev. Beard reminded everyone that we need to celebrate all the good things that are going on.
- (3) Steve Roan gave the closing prayer.
- (4) Next meeting is scheduled Tuesday, April 28, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.
- (5) The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Neuls
Church Council Recorder