

DALTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH COUNCIL

July 21, 2009

Church Parlor

ATTENDING:

Members:

Murray Bandy, Cheryl Baucom, Tim Baucom, John Bowling, Jim Burdick, Paul Byrum, Deck Cheatham, Terry Cullifer, Sandy Elder, Bryan Hair, Joe Hallsworth, Blake King, Lou Kirkman, Lowell Kirkman, C. S. Lee, Dr. Bill McDaniel, Charles Miller, Dean Grem, Mary Pollard, Doug Renz, Steve Roan, Trammell Scott, Linnie Tunnell, Aquila Wright

At-Large Members:

Fran Little, Charles Maret, Mary Pollard, Kerry Sikes

Church Staff:

Rev. Robin Lindsey, Peter Infanger, Jan Byrum, Lindsey Laney

Others Present:

Therese Church, Amanda Riggle

ABSENT:

Members:

Curt Adams, Paul Belk, Dick Coleman, Elaine Coleman, Jody McClurg, Sue Tuggle, Lynn Tunnell, Bob Weathersby

At-Large Members:

Jeff Hughes, Gary Johnson, Judge Robert Vining

Church Staff:

Rev. Billy Beard, Rev. James Hughes, Susie Brown

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING

- (1) Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Joe Hallsworth, Church Council Chair.
- (2) Jim Burdick gave the opening prayer.
- (3) Steve Roan presented a devotional on the theme of *patience*.
- (4) Several announcements were made by Rev. Beard; he also gave a report on joys, concerns, and sympathies.
- (5) Joe Hallsworth reviewed events for August through November as listed on the Church Calendar. He announced that the remiX Dedication is being taken off the calendar for now; it will be rescheduled when upgrades in Famber Hall have been completed. Jan Byrum announced a Family Fun event on Wed., Aug. 5 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

II. MINUTES

> Action: Upon appropriate motion and second, minutes of Church Council's meeting of May 26, 2009 were approved.

III. FINANCE REPORT

Treasurer C. S. Lee gave a report as of the end of June, reflecting the first six months of the year:

Income	\$665,423
Expenses	\$829,118
SHORTFALL: (\$165,695)	

Cash in Bank	\$164,377
"Note" balance	\$417,873

Treasurer's comments included:

- Shortfall of \$165,695 leaves us approximately five weeks behind budget,
- When we look at some of the other financial reports, we are having a good year,
- Pattern of giving is like this every year.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Youth Lounge

Joe Hallsworth reported that things are moving along and looking good with renovations to the Youth Lounge with an anticipation date of sometime in September.

There were questions and discussion regarding how the Church would pay for equipment-type items.

Here are some of the comments:

- We decided we would allow Lindsey Laney and the committee to have fundraising against the entire amount.
- A special Sunday set aside for giving to the Youth Lounge project is an option.
- Council was reminded that \$45,000 was the equipment figure.
- The youth should be encouraged to do fundraisers to contribute to the project. Church members may feel better about contributing if the youth themselves are involved.
- Lindsey Laney reported that the youth are in discussions about fundraising.
- We need to make the youth part of this process -- make them part of the ownership. It will help them to appreciate what they do have.
- It was a collective agreement that the future of this Church lies with our youth, that we are going to wrap our arms around them - or not. We are saying to our youth: we saw a need - we love you - we think this will help you be a better part of this Church.

FamberHall

Joe Hallsworth reported that it may take a couple more weeks for completion of upgrades. Window blinds are up, but are not "powered" yet.

Strategic Planning Group (SPG) - Lowell Kirkman, Chair

Regarding Temple Beth-El: This group is "trying to analyze what our Church's physical needs might be in the next few years. We are coming close to some decisions. The Temple is a dilemma. We are going to take a breather - pray and study - and come back together in September at which time we hope to come to a decision and be ready to make a recommendation."

Joel Group - Deck Cheatham, Chair

(1) In light of our Church's emphasis on *Connecting-Building-Sending*, we have been reviewing the wording of the Church's Mission Statement. Here is our recommendation:

Replace the wording, "connecting to a lost world" with the words "connecting to people"

> **Action:** Upon appropriate motion and second, the above recommendation was passed by voice vote.

(2) We have had two good sessions, and we are making progress regarding the strategy for implementing *Connecting-Building-Sending*. We will come forward with a more formalized way to implement that strategy.

(3) We will begin to look at other Churches about how they do things with their youth program.

(4) We are in the beginning stages of planning for neighborhood gatherings in homes where we will have an opportunity to meet and greet Robin and Kathy - and - they will have a chance to get to know us better. These meetings will be brief. We hope to begin this program after the Robin and Kathy return from vacation.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Mission to the Children in Kenya

Therese Church gave a report regarding a special orphan mission in Kenya.

Her comments included:

--She would like to see our Church become more involved in this ministry.

--There are two million orphaned children in Kenya because of the aids epidemic.

--This is an opportunity for us to step in; these children will grow up to be the leaders of tomorrow.

--Cost to support an orphan is \$65 a month.

--Our Church has designated some money.

--A building will cost \$55,000.

--Therese said she would like us, out of our opulence, to give to a place where there is such desperate need.

Comments from Council members included:

--Would like for us to have a way to help, but not sure what this group should do.

--Missions Committee wants Church Council to be aware of the situation in Kenya, and that opportunities are available to help.

VI. SPECIAL REPORT

Charles Miller gave a report on the Annual Conference which he recently attended:

(1) Church politics.

(2) Ministers have the right to decide a person's readiness to join the Church.

(3) A memorial service was held during Annual Conference; this was led by Rev. Al Turnell.

(4) Retiring ministers.

(5) African Children's Choir sang.

(6) Churches are running out of money at all levels. All churches are struggling. We need to be good stewards all the way through the system.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Stewardship - John Bowling, Chair

- (1) Committee met this afternoon; we are encouraged about where we are and where we are going.
- (2) There are less than two months until Consecration Sunday on Sept. 20.
- (3) We have selected all of our "announcers" for the three weeks preceding Consecration Sunday.
- (4) Jan Byrum reported on what the children are learning and doing about stewardship-type opportunities. Our young people and children are being lead in their relationship to the Lord.
- (5) Terry Cullifer gave a report on time and talent. This will dove-tail with what we will be doing on Sept. 20.
- (6) Committee discussed the theme for Consecration Sunday, and charged Robin Lindsey and Peter Infanger to look at concepts and come up with a tag line.
- (7) Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend worship Sept. 20 and to stay for the celebration lunch.
- (8) The Committee encourages everyone to support the Church's stewardship efforts and to be in prayer regarding the events of that special day.

Congregational Care - Lou Kirkman, Co-Chair

- (1) We are continuing to refine the Phone Tree processes.
- (2) Bereavement Committee continues to be a blessing to this Church. Lou expressed sincere appreciation to all those involved in this ministry.

Trustees - Blake King, Chair

Trustees did not meet in July, but members gave hands-on time to projects at the Church.

Communications - Bryan Hair, Chair

Committee continues working on ways of getting the *Connecting-Building-Sending* message out to Church membership.

Leisure and Recreation - Dean Orem, Chair

Camp Joy is coming to an end. It averaged 35-38 kids a day, and was better organized this year. This is a great program. We appreciate the job Susie and the Camp staff are doing with the kids.

Children's Council- Aquila Wright, Chair

- (1) Vacation Bible School was held in June; 180 children attended.
- (2) Summer Fun Day is scheduled Aug. 5 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Lots of activities are planned, as well as hotdogs and popcorn will be available.
- (3) Twenty-two third graders will receive Bibles during worship on Sunday, Aug. 16.

Weekday Children's Ministries - Amanda Riggle for Jody McClurg, Chair

- (1) Preschool and Daycare are doing well.
- (2) Playground renovations are underway; they are being funded by proceeds from the Ladybug Luncheon.

Endowment - Murray Bandy, Chair

- (1) New Endowment brochure will be mailed out to Church membership. Murray thanked Donna Hair for her work on the brochure project.
- (2) Quarterly meeting of Endowment Committee is scheduled Aug. 17; everyone is invited.

Finance Committee - Terry Cullifer, Chair

We went back to the issue at the May meeting regarding getting our line of credit back to \$750,000. This time our action was to begin to draw down on the amount that would be available to us. Over the next few months we may have to continue this action.

Missions - Linnie Tunnell, Co-Chair

- (1) A mission team will be going to Peru in Sept. They will be working with Arthur Ivey.
- (2) In regard to local missions, we may look at working with other churches in various projects.
- (3) Missions Celebration is scheduled Jan. 22-24, 2010.
- (4) We appreciate Paul Byrum and his musical efforts to raise money for DOC-UP.
- (5) Kerry Sikes reported that the 4th annual Bill Gregory Golf Tournament is set for Oct. 5. This is where part of our Church's mission dollars are raised.

Youth - Doug Renz, Chair

Doug thanked everyone for their efforts in moving ahead with renovations to our Youth Lounge. He said that it has been the "intent and the hope that we can raise all of the money for the Youth Lounge."

Lindsey Laney added, "When renovations to the Youth Lounge have been completed, we want to open up the Lounge for Church members to see what has been done." She reported that the youth have been doing some "around town" activities this summer, including working at the homes of some of our Church members.

United Methodist Women (UWW) - Sandy Elder, Chair

UWW will reconvene in September.

Worship - Jim Burdick

- (1) Committee met in May; will meet again in September.
- (2) Committee discussed ways that Church members might take the "Word" (received on Sundays) out into the community. It's the idea of doing something for somebody else. We hope there could be a sending-forth based on the message given on Sunday.

United Methodist Men (WMM) - Dr. Bill McDaniel, Chair

- (1) Bill encouraged people to come help with the work of the United Methodist Men. He said that the work is a blessing, but added that more men are needed.
- (2) Project on Lydell Street: our part has come to a halt because of some City constraints.
- (3) Hawthorne Street house: this is owned by First Baptist Church, and they have made it available to Family Promise. A porch is being added. Ultimately, the house will be rewired.
- (4) DFUMC Parsonage on Atkinson Street: work is going on this week and will continue through Saturday.

Music - Paul Byrum, Chair

- (1) Paul said that the strength of our music program is dependent on the leadership that we have with Peter Infanger. He expressed appreciation to Peter.
- (2) Much of what we do in music is about *Connecting*.
- (3) Reported on the summer activities of the youth choirs.

Evangelism - Tim Baucom, Chair

(1) Committee will meet in August.

(2) A Lunch & Learn event was held May 17. This was an opportunity for newcomers to see and learn about all areas of our Church. Most of the people who have expressed an interest are already Christians.

(3) We are planning packets for visitors which will include books, CD's on a case for faith, and coupons.

Staff Parish Relations (SPR) - Trammell Scott, Chair

June was a busy month for the Transition Team.

Activities surrounding the departure of Rev. and Mrs. Peabody included:

(1) Joe and Ann moved out of the Atkinson Street parsonage. Transition Team assisted in packing. Joe and Ann appreciated all the help.

(2) Good-Bye banners were made and displayed for the Peabodys.

(3) Lunches and dinners were provided the last three days of Joe and Ann's stay in Dalton.

(4) Transition Team arranged, supervised, and served a "Waffle breakfast to 225 people in Famber Hall on Joe's last Sunday.

(5) During Joe's last 11 :00 a.m. worship service, farewell gifts were presented to Joe and Ann: love offering of \$7,000; oil painting of DFUMC by Church member Paula Gregg; and a stole designed and crafted by Church member Elaine Coleman.

Activities surrounding the arrival of Rev. and Mrs. Lindsey:

(1) Welcome banners were made for Robin and Kathy; they were displayed at the Church and at the Thornton Avenue parsonage.

(2) Staff Parish Relations hosted a special luncheon for Robin and Kathy on May 25.

(3) Arrangements were made for Church Committee Chairs to meet individually with Rev. Lindsey.

(4) Meals were provided for the Lindsey's first ten days following their arrival in Dalton.

(5) Transition Team hosted a welcome luncheon on Robin and Kathy's first Sunday following the 11 :00 a.m. service; 320 people were served.

Trammell ended his report by thanking the many volunteers, which included Church Staff, who were involved in countless activities. "I feel blessed to have worked with such a wonderful and dedicated group. God had to be in this process. To God be the glory."

VIII. SPECIAL REMARKS

Joe Hallsworth

These Church Council meetings take a lot of time, but I think it is important for each Committee Chair and Staff Member to tell about their work. Then when we have the opportunity, we can talk with others about what is going on in the Church.

Rev. Robin Lindsey

I bring before you Kathy's and my excitement about being at Dalton First United Methodist. We are grateful for the beautiful home, and plan to have an open house around Christmas.

I am thrilled with the Staff. Staff Parish Relations has done a wonderful job. It speaks well to have a Staff with this longevity.

The television production of our worship services is impressive and well done.

I love to preach; I was called to preach, but I also love being a Pastor.

I look forward to the future; with the staff and laity which are in place, it will be incredible, .

I look forward to doing the work of God in this incredible Church. We must pray to discern what we are to do and then do it.

IX. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

(1) Steve Roan gave the closing prayer.

(2) Next meeting: August 25,2009

(3) Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Diane Neuls
Church Council Recorder