

Baker Memorial United Methodist Church

Church Council Meeting Agenda

March 16, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Room (*Note location!*)

Baker Memorial United Methodist Church is a welcoming Community of Faith empowered by the Holy Spirit. We seek to Glorify God by:

- *celebrating His gifts,*
- *helping each other become disciples of Jesus Christ, and*
- *servicing His people and Kingdom in Christian Love.*

- I. Welcome**
- II. Devotions** *Sandie Benhart*
- III. Presentation of the Minutes of the meeting of February 16, 2006**
- IV. Stewardship Moment** *Doug Ruth*
- V. Multimedia presentation on the history of our parish** *Pastor Eunbae Doh*
- VI. Reports of and Items from our Seven Ministry Teams**
- A. Christian Education *Meg Bingham*
 - B. Evangelism *Sandie Benhart*
 - C. Mission and Outreach *Ben Adams*
 - D. Parish Life *Loretta Wilson*
 - E. Worship and Spiritual Growth *Jean Cole*
 - F. Year-Round Stewardship *Doug Ruth*
 - G. Youth *Erik Swenson*
- VII. Reports of and Items from other ministries of our parish**
- A. United Methodist Men *Rick House*
 - B. United Methodist Women *Judy Schlarb*
- VIII. Reports of and Items from our Administrative Committees and Boards**
- A. Committee on Lay Leadership *Pastor Ronni Verboom*
 - B. Committee on Staff-Parish Relations *Debbie Conterato*
 - C. Board of Trustees *John Fell*
 - D. Committee on Finance *Biff Staples*
- IX. Additional items from council members, parishioners, and others in attendance**
- X. Review of Action Items**
- A. Selecting a council member to present a devotion at the April meeting
 - B. Other action items from this meeting
- XI. Church Council meeting announcements**
- A. Thursday, April 27, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall (note the change in the date)
 - B. Thursday, May 18, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall (note the change in the date)
- XII. Sharing Joys and Concerns**
- XIII. Closing Prayer**

Adjournment by 9:00 p.m.

Church Council Update

A Monthly Newsletter for the Church Council of Baker Memorial United Methodist Church

March 2006

From Mark's desk . . .

Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

²⁷So if anyone eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord unworthily, that person is guilty of sinning against the body and the blood of the Lord. ²⁸That is why you should examine yourself before eating the bread and drinking from the cup.

—1 Corinthians 11:27-28, NLT

The strength of a political system depends upon the full and willing participation of its citizens.—¶164B, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, 2004

“Voting is a civic sacrament.”

—Fr. Theodore Hesburgh
President, University of Notre Dame
in a 1984 *Reader's Digest* article

As I write this, it is nine days before the 2006 primary election. Members of two political parties will choose their standard-bearers for the general election, and voters will be asked to make a decision about referenda. Most of the Council is eligible to vote, and many of us do so on a regular basis. But as Christians, how should we be making out decisions about who to vote for?

Fr. Hesburgh's oft-quoted comment about voting being a “civic sacrament” is well known, but usually quoted by secular media not fully aware of its meaning. In 1 Corinthians 11, St. Paul instructs us to be properly prepared to receive the sacrament—“self-examination”, he calls it. As applied to our “civic sacrament”, this would mean an examination of each candidate and ballot issue, as well.

As United Methodists, our *Discipline* calls for our “full participation” in our political system. For some members of our parish, that has meant elective office: names like Jo Krieger (alderman), Gary Johnson (former state's attorney), Greg Pacelli (former alderman), Warren Kammerer (former County Board Chairman) Fred Norris (former mayor), and the late John Grotberg (former congressman) come to mind. For other parishioners, volunteer service has been our means of participation: among our City's 13 appointed commissions, there are 12 seats held by members of our church—including three of the Chairmen of these commissions.

***Our next meeting will be
Thursday, March 16, 2006***

But for each of us, “full participation” in our political system should mean voting next Tuesday. Our assignment is to examine the candidates and referenda, and cast an informed ballot.

Your thoughts and comments are always welcome.

Change in Meeting Location

This month, we will be meeting in the Youth Room. I changed the location to accommodate a request for a multi-media presentation for this meeting only. However, as we have more and more such requests, we may want to reconsider our location to permit this on a permanent basis. Please let me know the positives and negatives of such a move.

Mission Statements

What does your ministry team, committee, board, or other group do? What are its responsibilities? Do the members of our church know? Do your team members know? And, most important, *do you know?* This might seem like a silly question, but it is an important one. Each of the seven ministry teams, and administrative bodies will need to develop one in the coming months. One example is the following one, used by the Worship and Spiritual Growth Ministry Team:

Our Mission: the Worship and Spiritual Growth Ministry Team actively seeks to provide for the worship of the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and for the spiritual growth of all persons in our parish. The duties of this ministry shall include:

- Promoting regular worship of God—both corporate and private—by all of his people.
- Providing support for our ministerial and music staff in the conduct of worship services.
- Providing feedback to our ministerial and music staff in the conduct of worship services.
- Seeking and implementing ways to enrich the worship and devotional life of our entire parish.
- Providing and promoting educational opportunities about our worship practices, especially the Sacraments.
- Publishing parishioner-written devotional books during the preparatory seasons of Advent and Lent.
- Other responsibilities as may be assigned by the Senior Pastor or the Church Council.

Over the next few months, I will be contacting the leader of each ministry team and administrative body to develop a plan for creating a mission statement for each group.

Web Site of the Month

Bible Gateway (<http://www.biblegateway.com/>) is a Bible search-engine of great value to any student of the Word. It contains a full searchable text of the Bible in 19 different English-language versions, plus, for the multi-lingual, 51 foreign languages (including French and Korean, which should be of interest to two pastors I know . . .).

And if you want to waste a little time, try The Dialectizer (<http://www.rinkworks.com/dialect/>), which claims to be able to translate any web page into the following dialects: Redneck, Jive, Cockney, Elmer Fudd, Swedish Chef, Moron, Pig Latin, or Hacker. (Try our church web site in “Elmer Fudd”, just to see what it does to our Mission Statement!)

BAKER MEMORIAL UMC CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
February 16, 2006 7:00 PM WILEY HALL

Members present: Mark Armstrong, Rick Carlson, Jayne Scales, Joan Arteberry Zavitz, Margie Voll, Betty Erickson, Meg Bingham, Doug Ruth, Biff Staples, Debbie Conterato, Kim Starr, Gina Armstrong, Rick House, Judy Schlarb, Jeff Hunt, Pastor Rich French, Pastor Eunbae Doh, and Pastor Ronni Verboom.

Others present: Kathy Adams and Ellie Armstrong.

Members absent: Vic Temple, Evan Dutmer, Tom Trengove, Sandie Benhart, Ben Adams, Loretta Wilson, Jean Cole, Erik Swenson, JoAnn Poole, John Fell, and Jan McPeak.

<p>NOTE: Please send information to the Church Office by e-mailing it to: Joanne Surratt at: Carillon@bakermemorialchurch.org and Jan McPeak at info@bakermemorialchurch.org</p>
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Chairperson Mark Armstrong called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Joan Arteberry Zavitz presented a devotion titled “His Eyes on the Sparrow.”

The minutes of January 2006 meeting were reviewed and approved with one change – the word “move” was stricken from Stewardship Moment.

Chairperson Mark Armstrong discussed how each ministry team, committee, and other group will be writing its own mission statement over the next few months.

Stewardship Moment: Doug Ruth spoke about Fundraising Myths vs. Fundraising Ministries

Reports of Seven Ministry Teams:

Christian Education (Meg Bingham) Vacation Bible School will be June 26-30, with the time tentatively set for 9:00-11:30 a.m.; a Friday evening celebration for parents is also being considered.

Evangelism (Rick House, reporting for Sandie Benhart) Steve Hunt is a new member; the team is discussing expanding visitor parking; the brochures are almost done; the “Ask Me” program is beginning.

Mission & Outreach (Kathy Adams reporting for Ben Adams) Team members met in late January. They are recommending we participate in the different bands of Rainbow Covenant. Refugee support. Mauricio and Sandra, a refugee couple we sponsored, have moved to Houston, Texas to be near her sister. Their security deposit of \$885 from Park Shore Apartments was to be returned to

us to be used for the next family. Mauricio was robbed in Texas and so we have sent this money to him. They committed to supporting three different missionary efforts – two in Senegal and one in Mongolia at a total of \$7,500. Each month \$1,000 will be sent to one of projects. Some money from the rummage sale will go to these projects. Talked about a Korean Sunday for awareness; with Pastor Doh's help we could get Korean Missionaries as speakers. They are seeking any Korean War Vets in the congregation.

Parish Life (Pastor Rich French reporting for Loretta Wilson) Rich said they are looking for Lenten Study Leaders with a study to begin March 1. All Church Bowling will be on March 12 from 1-4 pm. We are changing the way we do Potlucks; we will begin with an opener potluck for all and then participants will be matched by a random drawing. Adoption Task Force will be coordinated under Parish Life.

Year-Around Stewardship (Doug Ruth) Fred Linebarger resigned from committee and new members are needed. John Hemingway, member of Endowment fund Committee, will share about Planned giving.

Worship & Spiritual Growth (Jean Cole provided a written report in her absence) The Ash Wednesday service will be at 7:30 p.m. with choir and imposition of Ashes. There will be a Messianic Passover Seder at 6:00 p.m. on Maundy Thursday. Other Easter Week schedule is under construction, still. A new way to raise and lower liturgical banners is needed for the sanctuary: brass eyelets screwed into reredos is suggested, and the council gave its approval. Joan Arteberry Zavitz offered to get our Easter Worship schedule into the media when it is ready.

Youth (Pastor Rich French for Erik Swenson) The youth made \$336 for Helen Shepard (Missionary in Mongolia) from their Wednesday Night Dinner. February 26 is Youth Sunday. The Appalachia Service Project had first meeting and can possibly send – possibly six teams – total of 42 people at this time.

Reports of other ministries

United Methodist Men (Rick House) Nothing to report at this time. Mark Armstrong shared an idea that he and Dan Starr had considered to add a digital antenna to the media presentation equipment in the youth room to facilitate an expansion of the Men's Football Fellowship, currently held in private homes. It was reported that Val McPeak wants to start a UMM golf league at Pottowatomie Park.

United Methodist Women (Judy Schlarb) The UMW served 75 at Wednesday Night Dinner. The Princess Party was great success. Our UMW unit pledged \$5,200 to District UMW – individual pledge cards are being sent out to the women of the church.

Reports of Administrative Committees and Boards

Staff-Parish Relations (Debbie Conterato) The next meeting will be a working meeting.

Lay Leadership (Pastor Ronni Verboom) Pastor Ronni presented a motion from the Committee to elect John Hemingway as a member of the Endowment Fund Committee; it passed unanimously.

Trustees (Pastor Ronni Verboom for John Fell) The Trustees approved a security system choice. There will be a key pad plus key entry to Cedar Ave and Third Ave entrances. There are too many people with keys now – this change will create more security. There will be a TV monitor in the office with a view of the entrances. Jan McPeak will be the person to contact for door access. Also, we did not acquire the home at 207 Cedar Avenue, as we were outbid. The Trustees will be developing a long-term strategy for purchases after the church adopts a strategic plan.

Finance (Biff staples) There are 196 pledges are in. Expenses were to budget this past month. Things look good for now!

Additional Items

Mark Armstrong requested that each ministry team, committee and board that develops agendas and keeps minutes to send copies to the following persons: Pastor Ronni Verboom, Pastor Eunbae Doh, Pastor Rich French, Business Manager Jan McPeak, Council Chairperson Mark Armstrong, and Lay Leader Rick Carlson.

A question was asked about receiving electronic notices about *The Carillon* when it is published to our web site. Anyone not receiving this notice should send an e-mail to Jan in the church office. Also, the pastors will invite people to include their e-mail addresses on the Sunday morning attendance sheet. Persons who would like to have a printed copy may print one from the church web site or pick one up at the church office.

Sandie Benhart will present a devotion in March.

Meeting Announcements

- Thursday, March 16, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall
- Thursday, April 27, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall (note the change in the date)

After a closing prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jayne Scales

Church Council Stewardship Training

Lesson Three

“Stewardship Principles for Funding Ministry”

*(From **Creating a Climate for Giving** by Donald Joiner)*

Principles

1. People who are part of our churches are there because of a response to a spiritual quest in their lives to find meaning in God.
2. Christian stewards have not reached the apex of their spiritual journey.
3. Christian stewards who have received the love of God in their lives want and need to give.
4. The need of a person to give, or share, is more basic than the need of the church to receive.
5. Understanding oneself as a steward requires no less than a conversion of attitude toward one’s possessions.
6. People enjoy knowing what their giving makes possible.
7. The church that knows what God wants them to do (vision) will have an easier time funding the ministry for which that church is called.
8. The church that thinks of money positively will find ways to help people give.
9. The leaders who are on a spiritual journey (exemplified in their giving, attendance, participation, prayer life) are part of a financially healthy congregation. In other words, when leaders lead, the congregation will follow (Joiner’s Law).
10. A church’s stewardship will influence the members’ stewardship.
11. A pastor who models giving will find a congregation following that lead.

Conclusions

The old paradigm identified external problems as the cause of decreased giving:

- People (inadequate commitment),
- Economy (not enough money),
- Age (all are on fixed incomes),
- Politics (they don’t like what the general church – UMC – is doing).

The cause of decreased giving is none of these. The reason people are not giving is that the system has created a climate for people to give elsewhere.

If you believe people want to give, the giving climate in your church will change. If you shift the focus away from the church and toward helping people fulfill their giving needs, the church will prosper. **THAT IS THE NEW PARADIGM!**

Instead of sitting in meetings complaining about members' lack of commitment, instead of seeking ways to get non-givers to give, instead of focusing on what's wrong, focus on what's been done to discourage giving. **THAT IS THE NEW PARADIGM!**

Focus on the givers or the beneficiaries of your ministries not on budgets or money. What are the results of giving? How are people's lives touched by the ministries of your church? **THAT IS THE NEW PARADIGM!**

Instead of giving a stewardship report on money that is needed to pay bills, give someone a chance to tell why he or she is a member of the church. Have them tell how the church has made a difference in their life. **THAT IS THE NEW PARADIGM!**

When people see the results of ministry, their giving takes on a whole new climate of enthusiasm and celebration. When giving theology shifts from people hoarding their money to celebrating a covenant or partnership with God, people become excited about giving. **THAT IS THE NEW PARADIGM!**

Church Council Membership

Chairperson

Mark Armstrong (630) 584-6905 mdarmstrong@smartgate.com

Vice Chairperson (Lay Leader)

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President of United Methodist Men

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President of United Methodist Women

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