

BAKER MEMORIAL UMC CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
August 17, 2006 7:00 PM YOUTH ROOM

Members present: Gina Armstrong, Mark Armstrong, Sandie Benhart, Meg Bingham, Rick Carlson, Debbie Conterato, Pastor Eunbae Doh, Evan Dutmer, John Fell, Pastor Rich French, Jeff Hunt, Jan McPeak, Doug Ruth, Jayne Scales, Judy Schlarb, Biff Staples, Erik Swenson, Pastor Ronni Verboom, and Loretta Wilson.

Others present: Kathy Adams

Members absent: Joan Arteberry Zavitz, Vic Temple, Margie Voll, Tom Trengove, Betty Erickson, Ben Adams, Jean Cole, Kim Starr, JoAnn Poole, and Rick House.

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

Chairperson Mark Armstrong called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the council in a devotion.

The minutes of the June 15, 2006 meeting were reviewed and approved with no changes.

Discussion regarding Adult Sunday School: Rick Carlson opened the discussion, asking for input about providing more opportunities for Adult Education. We can offer more classes, but “will they come?” Gina Armstrong, in her prior term as Sunday School Superintendent (7-8 years ago) said shorter studies— those of several sessions or even one session—were much better attended than those classes lasting a full year. Jan McPeak, who leads a class, picks studies where it is not necessary to come to EVERY week, telling people to come when they can.

Right now we have two adult Sunday School classes with participation of up to 25 people.

Suggestions included experimenting with dates and times, and calling it something besides “Sunday School”.

Mark Armstrong recounted his experience at Chicago Temple, where a serious commitment to adult education was made by splitting the services and having an education hour with a variety of topics in between; this resulted in a huge increase in adult Sunday School attendance. Rick Carlson noted that Pastor Tom Walker had reported a similar experience at First UMC Elgin.

Ronni mentioned that as a newcomer she did not know much about the classes offered – how long they were, topics – and when they changed. She suggested strategies including more creative announcements to encourage people to come.

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Rick Carlson will take this feedback to the Christian Education Ministry Team for further action.

Reports of Seven Ministry Teams:

Christian Education (Meg Bingham) The Christian Education Ministry Team is “Dreaming Big” with new programs for the coming year. All Sunday School positions are all filled, but there is still a vacant position as a helper for the three-year-old class and a vacant PAID position for a 10:30 Nursery Attendant.

Evangelism (Sandie Benhart) Evangelism Ministry Team is working on Mission Statement and getting ready for Homecoming Sunday with welcome tables, ASK ME buttons for helpers, and information sheets about each ministry of the church. They will be placed in a display case built by team member Rick House.

Mission & Outreach (Kathy Adams for Ben Adams) There will be a World Relief meeting in August. The Missions and Outreach Ministry Team is looking for a refugee family who would be suited to our area.

Parish Life (Loretta Wilson) The Parish Life Ministry Team sponsored a Canoe trip, which was attended by 11 people. While grateful for those who attended, the Team hoped it would have attracted larger numbers; apparently, there were some who signed up and did not show, even though canoe space was reserved for them. It was suggested that for any event requiring payment, a reservation will not be made until payment is received.

Worship & Spiritual Growth (Pastor Ronni Verboom reporting for Jean Cole) Pastor Ronni Verboom asked Jeff Hunt to discuss the new format for the 10:30 service. Jeff Hunt explained that the service will be conducted with four M’s: *Message, Metaphor, Music, and More!* While different from our 9:00 a.m. service, it was noted that this will not be a “contemporary” service. It will have the same scripture and sermon topic as the 9:00 a.m. service, but it will be presented in a way that is more interactive and multi-sensory. The music will be similar to the 9:00 a.m. service, although this service will have youth choirs instead of the chancel choir. Families are especially encouraged to attend together.

Year-Around Stewardship (Doug Ruth) The Dream Team, consisting of ten members, has had eight meetings. Doug Ruth showed an example of their work, using the book *How to Change Your Church (without Killing It)*. They are attempting to answer questions such as: *Who are we? Where are we going? What is the future of our church?* Doug Ruth showed a graph that answers some of these questions, as they attempt to analyze the parish’s strengths weaknesses.

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Youth (Erik Swenson) Erik Swenson reported great excitement with Youth Ministry Team. They have a schedule for the entire year, alternating a weekly fellowship activity with a service activity the following week. They will have a Lazer Tag event on September 17, and on September 27 they will be serving Wednesday night supper and raising money for *Love in Action*, a group that reaches out to families touched by AIDS. The Youth Ministry Team NEEDS A SECRETARY to attend their meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. Their October service project will be a *Helping Hand Time*—the youth will take orders from Members who need a hand with projects around the home.

Reports of other ministries

United Methodist Men (Mark Armstrong reporting for Rick House) The Golf group is successful, with nine groups of four; Val McPeak suggests continuing this fellowship with a bowling group through the winter. Men's Football Fellowship is ready; UMM spent \$300 on an antenna and high definition receiver for the projection system in the youth room. The United Methodist Men is considering donating some of their funds to the Trustees Matching Fund. They also plan to work Wednesday night suppers to "re-charge their batteries."

United Methodist Women (Judy Schlarb) The United Methodist Women have been very active over the summer at the Farmer's Market. They sold items and ended up cooking and serving breakfast, too. The prayer quilt ministry has made 20 quilts that were very well received! The Informational Brochures developed by the Evangelism Ministry Team will be used for publicizing all UMW activities.

Reports of Administrative Committees and Boards

Staff-Parish Relations (Debbie Conterato) The Committee on Staff-Parish Relations is continuing to work on Policy Manual.

Lay Leadership (Pastor Ronni Verboom) At the request of the Church Council, the Committee on Lay Leadership will prepare to nominate church officers for terms beginning July 1 and ending June 30. In the interim, they will ask current officers to serve six additional months (through June 2007) and then transition into the new format.

Trustees (John Fell) The All Church Clean-Up was a rousing success and will be continued on an Annual Basis. The Board of Trustees have approved the rental home for Missions use – for Refugee Families; after the family is placed, the Trustees will apply for a charitable-use exemption from real estate tax for that property. A donation of \$20,000 to sponsor a family has been made. John Fell expressed gratitude for the contacts provided by Bob Bolz for the Facility Assessment.

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Finance (Biff Staples) All Budget Requests are into the Committee on Finance. In September, the Committee will develop a recommended budget and then present it to the Council. The Committee also recommends the name of the position of Church Treasurer be replaced by All Church Accountant and become a part time paid position at a rate of \$5,000.00-6,000.00. A job description will be distributed to the Council and the issue will be addressed at the September meeting.

Additional Items

Rich French agreed to present a devotion at the September meeting.

Mark Armstrong reminded the chairpersons of each Ministry Team, Board, and Committee to complete their Mission Statements by the October meeting.

Each member of the Council was asked to comment on the meeting location, and let Mark Armstrong know if the Youth Room was a good alternative to Wiley Hall.

Meeting Announcements

The Church Council will meet on Thursday, September 21, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall.
The Church Council will meet on Thursday, October 19, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall.

Sharing Joys and Concerns

- Joys:
- Pastor Ronni Verboom attended the Clergywomen's Consultation Group, where over 1,500 clergywomen (including some mothers and daughters) celebrated the 50th anniversary of Women's Ordination in The Methodist Church.
 - John Fell talked about how his son Matthew was saved from running into the street by a friend, and how he felt the hand of God in that action.
 - Rick House has a family reunion.

Concerns:

- The family of Sandie Benhart's nephew, who recently drowned in the Fox River.

Pastor Eunbae Doh closed the meeting with prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

After adjournment, the Council was given a demonstration of the new 96" High Definition projection system developed in the Youth Room by the team of Dan Starr, Rick House, and Mark Armstrong.

Respectfully submitted,

Jayne Scales, Recording Steward