

Administrative Council Minutes
10/15/2008

Present: Alane O'Connor, Christine Merckens, Julie Dana, Shelly Fitzgerald, Michael Barrett, Tony Mastromarino, Dick and Joan Tripp, Bill Meyer

Topic: Opening Devotion – Michael Barrett shared a reading from Peter Panagore

Topic: Administrative Council Secretary position

Action: Bill Meyer, on behalf of the Committee on Lay Leadership, put forward the name Sharon Hankermeyer as the new AC secretary. Tony Mastromarino made the motion to approve the nomination, it was seconded by Sue Gawler, and was unanimously approved.

Topic: Approval of the minutes of the 8/20/08 mtng.

Action: The minutes were approved with corrections.

Topic: Lay Leader Report: Christine Merckens

Discussion: Christine reported that at the recent United Methodist Women's meeting the attending official from the Boston office made special mention of how very welcoming Union Church was. It was also reported that the UMW Pumpkin Patch is underway with a few organizational problems, however, it continues to be a great public relations means for the church and the town.

Topic: Mission and Outreach Committee – Alane O'Connor

Discussion: Alane noted that the committee's work days continue with the last one of the year being held in Nov. The day would primarily involve cutting, splitting, and storing fire wood for emergency purposes. The committee is also in the process of applying for another United Way grant for \$1000. This grant would be used for winterization purposes. It was also reported that the Christmas Giving Tree ministry with the Belgrade Central School will again take place this year with Bobbie Mahler coordinating it. Alane reported that a recipient of M/O \$ for the purposes of a missionary trip to Zimbabwe will be coming to speak to the church upon her return. It was also noted that Ernie Mercken's will continue to offer to bring items to the Solon Thrift Shop occasionally, and that he will receive gas money for each trip from the committees funds.

Topic: Staff/Parish Relations Committee Report – Shelly Fitzgerald

Discussion: No report at this time.

Topic: Charge Conference date

Discussion: Bill Meyer noted that the church had been notified that our Charge Conference will be held on Dec. 15th. In response to this date he suggested that we reschedule the next Administrative Council meeting to coincide with this date so as to save meeting time.

Action: It was unanimously approved.

Topic: Treasurer's Report – Dick Tripp

Discussion: Dick put forward the September report with the note that it was good month (See report). Many thanks were offered to Dick for his continued good work.

Topic: Finance Committee report / Tony Mastromarino

Discussion: Tony reported the following: The Chester Thwing \$ has been placed in a CD as directed by the AC; The draft of the 2009 Ministry Needs Budget was presented and discussed, noting that it would be up for approval at the Charge Conference; Tony noted that the SPRC has presented the Pastoral Ministry compensation package, which this year would include two gifts of \$1,500 to be given to the pastor at Easter and Christmas. The travel reimbursement will be paid out at 51 cents per mile; Final drafts of the 2009 budget will be made available for all before the CC.

Topic: Stewardship Campaign / BJ Howard

Discussion: BJ reported that the first letter of the campaign has gone out, and that she has concerns about the success of the campaign in regards to the current national economic state. However, she remains hopeful based on the church's history. She invited all to check with others as to whether "their pledges were in." All church leadership should be asking this of the parish. She also noted that there will be a piece in the upcoming newsletter and that for a number of Sundays she will have people speaking about their giving to the church. Appreciation was expressed for her and her team's efforts (Barbara Webster, Patti Kimball, Sam Kimball and her grand daughter Sam).

Topic: Trustees / BJ Howard

Discussion: BJ reported that the committee continues to look at ways to save money by employing various aspects of the recently performed energy audit on the church. She noted that there were many recommendations made and that they will be planning a program of implementation. It was noted by Michael Barrett that there is currently \$2,492 in their account.

Topic: Old Business / Endowment program – Tony Mastromarino

Discussion: Tony informed the AC that the final draft of the endowment documents for presentation before the Charge Conference had now been realized, and that they were available on-line and in hard copy for all to review.

Topic: Closing Prayer – Christine Merckens

Next Meeting: December 15th at 7 p.m.

- Respectfully submitted, William P. Meyer (The full-service pastor, from the pulpit to the pot!)