

**Minutes of the December 18, 2008, Church Council Meeting  
First United Methodist Church  
LaGrange, Georgia**

The Church Council of First United Methodist Church, LaGrange, Georgia, met on Wednesday, December 18, 2008, at 6:30PM in the Men's Bible Class.

Mrs. Esther Rainey, Council Chairperson, called the meeting to order. Dr. Harold Lawrence led the devotional.

The minutes from the October 19, 2008, Church Council meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

**Old/Unfinished Business:**

Mrs. Rainey reported that the Charge Conference was well attended as was the Lay Leadership training session. She stated that only 2 committee reports were on the agenda, but other committees were welcome to report if needed.

**Committee Reports:**

Methodist Day School: Mr. Edward Smith, the 2009 Chairperson, reported that 2008 had been a transitional year for the Day School and that it remained a half day program after the full day program failed to materialize. He stated that the committee felt strongly that the School would be operating in a balanced budget in 2009. He stated that there would be a new Summer Day Camp program for Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade starting when school is out and ending when school starts back. After some discussion, Mr. Smith stated that having 20 participants would cover all costs to operate the camp. He stated that advertising the program would begin within the church and then expand out, and that if registration had less than 20 participants the program would not be held.

Finance: Chairperson Paul Perrotti presented the proposed budget and stated that the church's accounting procedures would change in 2009 in order to report more accurate numbers and to take all capital funds out of the operating budget. He made a power point presentation to increase the awareness of the financial situation at the present time and the future. He stated that break even budgeting would not be sufficient any longer emphasizing that revenues had to increase. He also stated that without an increase in revenue the church would be forced to make some major cuts in expenditures. A motion was presented from the Finance Committee to adopt the proposed budget. This motion passed, but there was an immediate request for reconsideration and the members of the Council agreed to reconsider the motion that had just passed. Another motion was presented to adopt the proposed budget for 60 days for the church to continue operating, for the committee to work with the church staff and all other committee chairs to find ways to cut expenditures, and to bring a revised budget back to Council at the February 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting for consideration. This motion passed.

Music: Chairperson Nancy Larson thanked Laura Smith and the children's choirs and the adult choir for their special musical presentations. She also thanked all who participated in providing special music in the sanctuary each day during Nativity.

Worship: Chairperson Ray Newman reported that this year's Nativity Festival was the best ever and thanked Dr. Lawrence for opening it up to include other churches and Mr. Dick Willey for organizing the

community involvement. Mr. Newman announced that there would be one service on December 21<sup>st</sup> and 3 services on Christmas Eve at 6, 9, & 11.

Trustees: Chairperson Mike Wilson reported that First United Methodist Church had donated one of the many pianos around the church to Dunson UMC.

**Singular Office Reports:** None.

**Staff Reports:**

Associate Minister: Rev. Kathy Lamon stated that the Mission Market held this past Christmas raised \$1200 for several outreach missions in our community and around the world.

**New Business:**

Mrs. Rainey thanked those on Church Council who were rolling off at the end of the year for their service.

Dr. Harold Lawrence closed with prayer. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,  
Dodie Patterson