

**Minutes of the October 19, 2008, Church Council Meeting  
First United Methodist Church  
LaGrange, Georgia**

The Church Council of First United Methodist Church, LaGrange, Georgia, met on Sunday, October 19, 2008, at 2:00PM in the Chapel.

Mrs. Esther Rainey, Council Chairperson, called the meeting to order. For the devotional, everyone was asked to name something at First Methodist that excited them.

The minutes from the August 27, 2008, Church Council meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

**Old/Unfinished Business:**

None.

**Committee Reports:**

Bereavement: Ms. Dodie Patterson reported for the committee that there had been 8 deaths in the church family and that 5 families had requested meals.

Communication: Mrs. Esther Rainey reported for the committee that after the first of the year a new church directory would be put together.

Education: Mrs. Kim Davison reported for the committee that all programs were doing well.

Evangelism: No report.

Finance: Chairperson Paul Perrotti reported that the church's cash on hand was down from the average and that we would open up 2 additional lines of credit to be used only if needed. He stated that because expenditures had been held down we were only \$25,000 or so behind at this point. He stated that with the current economic situation we would need to continue with the same spending cuts into next year.

Methodist Day School: Chairperson Pam Doig reported that there was still an issue with enrollment, but the current list of students consisted of a very diverse group. She stated that the teachers and families seem to be happy with the school. She stated that there were 48 students enrolled and that 66 were needed to break even. Discussion took place about the church's contribution to the MDS program and future plans. Mr. Perrotti stated that last school year the church contributed \$10,000 and that the total for the year would probably be around \$20 to \$25,000. Mrs. Doig stated that plans were underway for the Summer Program for ages K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade and that hopefully there would be enough students to enroll in that for it to break even.

Kitchen Work Team: No report.

Lay Leadership: Chairperson Harold Lawrence presented the proposed slate of lay leaders for 2009. A motion was made to accept the proposed slate and present it to the Charge Conference in November.

Memorials: Chairperson Skip Smith stated that the committee would be taking recommendations soon for this year.

Missions: Chairperson Lewis Powell reported that the committee wanted to have a Missions Market whereby people could make donations to worthy causes in honor of family and friends for Christmas instead of purchasing gifts. He passed out brochures to everyone for them to look over. A motion to accept and promote this Mission Market concept was seconded and unanimously approved.

Music: No report.

Policy: Chairperson Brian Lockerbie reported that the Policy Manual had been edited and updated. He stated that with the new security system in place a policy would be created to handle the disbursement of access cards and other issues. This policy would then have to be included in the manual.

Staff Pastor Parish Relations: Chairperson Nancy Stevens stated that the ministers self-evaluations had been completed and that the church remained under a hiring freeze due to budget issues. She stated that the committee appreciated the staff's hard work and positive attitude.

Stewardship: Chairperson Kelly Linch reported that campaign letters had gone out. He reminded all that the good things our church was doing came with a price tag and encouraged everyone to turn in their pledge card.

Trustees: Chairperson Mike Wilson stated that he would let all the committees under the Trustees report their activities.

Activities & Use: Chairperson Bob Cammon stated that the committee had worked hard to fine tune the process by which people and groups could apply to use the church facilities. He announced that the committee had voted to not allow any outside activities in the church during the month of December.

Buildings & Grounds: Chairperson Hugh Jones reported that the committee was in the process of getting directional signs made for all 3 church buildings. He stated that next year's committee would have to address the roof over the parlor and the canopy of the Children's building entrance; the paint on the outside of the buildings, the replacement of the 14 windows in the church office area, and the installation of steps in the grassy area at the Trinity Street entrance.

Long Range Planning: No report.

Security: Chairperson Rick Cox reported that the security system was working well and that additional access card locks along with video cameras would be installed at other entrances as the budget allowed.

Worship: Chairperson Ray Newman reported that all the worship services were going well and that the Altar Guild, Acolytes and Music program people were working hard to put off the worship services together.

Altar Guild: Chairperson Claire Beall reported that plans were being made for the Christmas season. She stated that this year there would be 3 Christmas Eve services; 6, 9, and 11.

Ushers: Chairperson John Holliday stated that there was still a need for more ushers. He announced that at the November 8<sup>th</sup> Men's Breakfast he would present a program on the Church Usher, the duties and responsibilities. He reminded everyone that women were invited to be a part of the usher teams.

Community Care Team: Rev. Kathy Lamon reported that this committee continued to fill requests for assistance with prescription medication at a rate of about \$2,000 a month. She stated that several times the committee had to shut down for lack of funds before the end of the month.

### **Singular Office Reports:**

Membership Secretary: Mrs. Patti Lybrand stated that we had gained more members than we had lost.

Church Historian: No report.

Memorial Foundation: Mrs. Nancy Stevens reported that the Foundation had been working with the Columbarium Committee to get this project underway.

United Methodist Women: President Sandie Deyo reported that November was our church's month to help man the Food Closet and that volunteers were still needed.

United Methodist Men: No report.

Adult Education: Mrs. Esther Rainey reported that the new Young Adult Sunday Class was going very well. She stated that the Comerford and the Kersey's had recruited about 16 people to join them.

### **Staff Reports:**

Minster of Visitation: Rev. Helen Henry stated that the 6-week study of Revelation was over and that she hoped it had recruited some new class members. She stated she continued to visit the shut-ins and to keep in touch with those who had experienced the loss of a loved one. She informed the Council that before the end of the year we would be breaking ground for the Columbarium.

Associate Minister: Rev. Kathy Lamon stated that the Andrew Team had increased in members so that now one team would visit newcomers once every 4 months. She stated that Brooke Outland and David Ferguson were making a real effort to reach out to the college students.

Senior Minister: Dr. Harold Lawrence expressed his appreciation for the staff and for all those who have served on committees this past year. He stated that some people would be rotating off one committee and going to serve on another, while some would have a break in service.

### **New Business:**

Mrs. Rainey reminded everyone that our Charge Conference would be held on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> at Warren Temple UMC at 7:00pm and that the Leadership Training event would take place on Sunday, Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 in the fellowship hall and strongly encouraged all to attend both.

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

Respectively submitted,  
Dodie Patterson