

**Minutes of the April 22, 2009, Church Council Meeting  
First United Methodist Church  
LaGrange, Georgia**

The Church Council of First United Methodist Church, LaGrange, Georgia, met on Wednesday, April 22, 2009, at 6:30PM in the Men's Bible Classroom.

Mr. Tripp Penn, Council Vice-Chairperson, called the meeting to order. Mr. Jim Thornton opened the meeting with a devotional.

The minutes from the February 22, 2009, Church Council meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

**Old/Unfinished Business:** None.

**Committee Reports:**

Staff Parish Relations: Chairperson Heather Graham stated that Debbie Ogle has agreed to conduct the adult choir on a permanent basis. She further stated that Casey Kornek had resigned as Methodist Day Director and that Debbie Cox had been named the interim director while the committee searched for a permanent director. The Committee hoped to name a director by the end of May.

Bereavement: No report.

Education: No report.

Evangelism/Communication: Chairperson Mike Wilson reported that the committee had asked all adult Sunday school classes to address the topic of faith sharing on one or more Sundays. He stated that an ad for the church had been purchased in the new edition of the Newcomers' booklet. Mr. Wilson stated that Sunday school class presidents are being sent a list of worship service visitors each week so that the classes could identify new people and invite those visitors to their class.

Finance: Chairperson Denise Wilson presented the financial statement and stated that there was a positive balance with sufficient funds in the general operating account. She stated that budgeted revenue was behind but that expenses were down. Mrs. Wilson presented the Memorials Committee policy changes which had been approved by the Finance Committee for Council adoption; the motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Mrs. Wilson presented a motion to adopt some minor changes to the current financial polices and following a second the motion was approved. She presented a motion to refinance with CB&T bank the Harwell Avenue property from its current 7% to 6% with the closing costs reduced to half the amount, and following a second the motion was unanimously approved.

Kitchen: No report.

Lay Leadership: No report.

Memorials: Chairperson Marilyn Smith reported that the committee had purchased a printer/fax machine for the Community Care office.

Methodist Day School: Mrs. Denise Wilson, Finance Chairperson, reported that the Summer Camp program plans were well underway and that there was enough children registered at this time for the program to break even.

Missions: Chairperson Lewis Powell stated that the committee was working to better educate the congregation about the church's mission initiatives. He stated that the committee would be looking into the requirements for establishing our church as a disaster relief center for members and the community.

Music: Chairperson Fred Cammon stated that the committee would be actively trying to increase the number of choir members and to identify people to work with our children's music ministry. He stated that a music survey sheet was being developed and would be made available to the church family through email and at church services.

Policy: No report.

Stewardship: Chairperson Jack Brown stated that the committee was ready to help if needed, but would not begin meeting regularly until the fall.

Trustees: Chairperson Jamie Bradfield reported that all sub committees were working diligently in their areas. He announced that the roof repair would begin the upcoming Monday and that the cost was projected to be less than first thought. He also informed Council that a completed photo survey of all church facilities and an inventory of items of value within the church had been given to the insurance company per their request.

For Activities & Use: Mr. Bradfield reported that the committee had met and granted 5 groups use of the facilities. He stated that the committee was examining new revenue options.

For Buildings & Grounds: Mr. Bradfield reported that the Chairperson, Gordon Smith, had divided the church campus into 3 sections and the committee members had prioritized a list of items that needed attention. He stated that the committee would seek the most cost effective way of getting the work done which might include help from church members.

Long Range Planning: No report.

Security: Chairperson Rick Cox stated that the lighting around the building will improve with the 4 additional flood lights to be installed. He also stated that a motion light at the kitchen door is being added.

Worship: Covered in devotional.

Community Care: No report.

Memorial Foundation: No report.

### **Singular Office Reports:**

Lay Leader: No report.

Membership: Mrs. Patti Lybrand reported that currently we had 989 active members with 524 family units. She stated that 115 of our members were between 13-23 years and 379 were over the age of 60. She stated that we need to work together to bring in new members because our church was aging.

Treasurer: No report.

UMW: No report.

UMM: No report.

Adult Education: No report.

Scouting Coordinator: No report.

### **Staff Reports:**

Minister of Visitation: Rev. Helen Henry stated that she was visiting a lot more people over the age of 90 than in years past.

Vice-Chairperson Mr. Tripp Penn congratulated Rev. Kathy Lamon for passing the Board of Ordained Ministry.

Senior Minister: Dr. Harold Lawrence also congratulated Rev. Lamon and stated that she would be ordained on Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at the North Georgia Annual Conference.

### **New Business:**

Mrs. Denise Wilson stated that Mrs. Lillian Cobb had left a significant amount of stock to the church in her will and that the Finance Committee would be addressing the use of those funds. Mrs. Wilson announced that there were only a couple of items remaining on the columbarium and that the all should be complete by early June.

Council Vice-Chairman Tripp Penn reminded everyone of the next meeting would be held on June 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Men's Bible classroom. There being no further business the meeting adjourned following a prayer.

Respectively submitted,  
Dodie Patterson