

Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2011

7:15 p.m.

In attendance: Cathy Mottar, Lori Randall, Pastor Sunny, Jerry McDaniel, Betty Miller, Julie Kuhn, Doug Meneely, Carolyn Meneely, Mary Balk, Don Balk, John Machonis, JoAnne Gregorash, Ian Rogenski, Marianne Rogenski, Rob Mottar, Bruce Bedingfield, Melinda Taylor; Don Weibel came around 8:10.

Opening Prayer & Introductions Cathy led us in prayer. Then we went around the room with introductions.

Devotions Ian Rogenski read a devotion reminding us that God will lead us in the right direction, not up the down escalator. Doug said he would give the devotion in January.

Administration

- Calendar & News letter Reminder. Jerry provided calendars. The newsletter dept is going out of town, and will print the newsletter tomorrow. UMM has been moved up the first Saturday of January from the second to "undecorate" the church.
- Carolyn moved, Doug seconded, that the October minutes be approved. Passed on a voice vote.

Special Discussion

- 2012 Budget (Carolyn Meneely) - She provided copies of the 2012 Budget, explaining that it is essentially the same as that discussed in October. Envelope giving has been updated after second mailing went out and responses came in. Other income is similar to last year. All committees' requests were entered as is. The majority of the budget is in Apportionments, Staff Parish, and Trustees. We do not have enough income to cover these expenses, but the shortfall will be covered by reserve fund (listed as "Contingency Reserve from Money Market" in income category), showing a balanced budget. Note: Rev Elizabeth's salary is in the budget, at least if/until Staff Parish directs otherwise. Finance moves that the budget be accepted. Lori asked why Senior Pastor amount has changed from last year; Doug explained that pension money was misallocated to that line from last year. Julie noted that some categories went up quite a bit, such as education; did we really look at everything & cut what we could? Carolyn explained that we would not necessarily approve all expenses. Education increased because we added a new ministry, Young Adults. Ian noted that there has been some turnover in membership which explains the drop in Reg Envelope Giving. The \$315k is 100% of commitments (past years budget has shown 90%). Jerry said that the individual givers were very close to 100% of their commitments. Rob asked about the money allocated to the Young Adults group; Sunny said that it matches about the amount

she has been spending. Discussion about whether we are in the position to spend this, or if it is an investment. Doug stated that we need to push to grow and meet our budget without dipping into reserves. Bruce seconded the motion to approve the budget. Approved on a voice vote. Carolyn commented that we have a good, strong group for Finance Committee going forward.

- Stewardship Report (Ian Rogenski) - Ian passed out a packet of info about online giving through Vanco. He researched the issue and found that it is very common among churches today. The costs have been budgeted in Stewardship. The service allows members to give to ORUMC electronically, and we will have reports of the giving from Vanco. He reviewed the other options available, such as adding a line for special events, or registrations for these events. Talked with Finance, the tellers, Donna, Jerry, to be sure that it meets their needs. JoAnne asked about Vanco; Ian said that United Methodist Finance has used them extensively. Have talked to three churches that use them, highly recommended, though they didn't know how it impacted giving. Based on the Church of the Holy Spirit's experience, best guess is that 50 will choose to give this way in our church. We have 120-130 regular giving units, maybe 200 that have given anything in a year. Members would set up their own information, though Stewardship would be available with laptops to help others set up if they would like. Or, members can fill out a paper form, and Stewardship could input. Our software is going to be updated, and this would integrate with the new system. Ian reviewed the fees (\$25 monthly hosting fee, \$.50 set-up per giver, \$.25 per transaction fee, adding to about \$962 for 50 givers). JoAnne asked about debit vs credit; the credit option was too expensive. Ian presented the possible/probable offset of costs due to regular giving even when absent on Sunday. Doug commented that there would also be a steady income stream, even during summer. Jerry asked what the benefit was to a regular check writer; probably none. Some already use their banks to pay online; is it really a benefit, worth the aggravation to set it up, and the cost? Betty & Jerry pointed out that older members would probably not be interested. Sunny moved that we set this up and try it for three months to see if it is effective, then revisit it. Julie suggested that we might have a half-hour workshop on how online bill pay works for those who don't use it now. Ian said he had thought that this option would actually appeal to those who already pay other bills online. Stewardship is going to offer budgeting classes, could add this. Mary asked who would be in charge of this; what happens when the current committees roll over in three years? Ian does not think that it will be a big time commitment after the initial setup. Cathy brought us back to the motion. Jerry asked what does try it out mean? Should we see if there is interest among members? Ian said that we would have some sort of "offering act" like putting a card in the basket on Sundays. Do we need to define what success is? Sunny modified her motion to try out this option until the September Ad Council meeting to see how it has impacted summer giving. Mary seconded, approved on a voice vote (two nays).

- Ian gave a brief presentation on "reverse tithing", meaning that each family will be given \$20 in late February and asked to find a way to grow it for God's work at ORUMC within about a month (some will just add \$20, others may have bake sale, etc). Sunny will give some messages related to the parable of the talents and stewardship of money. Sunny has done it before, and we do expect to see a return.

Sharing - Cathy asked that everyone keep their reports brief due to time.

- Senior Pastor's Report - would like to have Worship Committee motion first. Carolyn said that Worship discussed having only one service from Memorial Day to Labor Day; there was not a clear consensus in their discussions. Attendance is down during summer, but visitors will look at published times. Discussion about times, etc, maybe put an article in the newsletter. Friendship Village is not flexible about times. People might want to come earlier in the summer. Carolyn said that Worship moves that we only have one service from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Talk to committees and friends and bring back input to next meeting. Decision will need to be made soon to prepare the congregation, for the keyboardist, etc. Sunny said that we could prepare surveys for congregation to say one or two services, if one service, what is the preferred time? Also, Jerry can fit a blurb into the next newsletter. Sunny said that one service would be a better use of resources; was very surprised at the huge drop-off last summer, energy in service is different, music hard to fill, better to have one good service, more vivid. Has checked with other area pastors, and they are going to one service as well (Our Saviors, Lutheran church). John asked how we are going to get more people in one service rather than two, some people will definitely want to go to the 9:00. Cathy noted that the survey would give us direction as to whether or not to pursue this option.
- Sunny thanked all for being ministry partners this year. Said her blood has gotten thicker, thermostat is lower so trustees will be happy. Appreciate the support people have given. Working on team-building for next year. Feels that others are taking charge in different areas and she does not have to be involved in everything, good.
- Education Pastor's Report - Cathy read the report Elizabeth sent (see below).
- Youth Director's Report - Marianne gave report (see below). Encouraged everyone to sign up to help with 30-hour Famine.
- Committee reports
 - Staff Parish - Doug stated that Elizabeth will be at the S-P meeting on the 12th. Would like to have a potluck on the 8th after church, could he get some help. Cathy said that Doug could give something to Donna, and she could email the congregation. Doug said he could announce it in the service, Cathy will post on the UMW Facebook page. Mary will put up a poster for people to sign up. Jerry will squeeze it in the newsletter. Doug wanted to publicly thank the staff for a great year; there was a collection for a Christmas gift which will be given on Sunday.

- Finance - Carolyn explained that we will modify the way finances are presented in the bulletin. Instead of showing the current month's incomplete info, it will show the previous month's final numbers. Income will also show all income not just envelope giving.
- Nominations - Julie said they haven't met since Charge Conference. Need to find a different chair of nominations (she is going off this month).
- Trustees - Rob said that the security system is up and running. Do not use your key on the front or back door during the day - it locks the door. Only use the nursery entrance. Pass the word. Trying to watch the budget. Have signed on with a new electricity carrier, looking into a new gas carrier, could save \$1500 - \$2000. Sunday School will begin meeting in the classrooms instead of Wesley Hall. Adult Sunday School will meet in Room 4 (choir room). Have a new cleaning company, some kinks, she wants to come during late afternoon/early evening, but there are meetings going on.
- Education - starting in January, jr high will have Bible study on Sunday evenings, as will sr. high, then they will meet together for games. Sunny is working on confirmation class plans in addition to this, what are Methodist beliefs, etc. Has asked two people, will let her know by Sunday if they can teach the Sunday school.
- Micah Ministries - studying Exodus from Hunger. Heifer Project going on now.
- Caring Ministries Meeting Jan. 5 to determine how to contribute to Rainbow Covenant; won't be as much, but still 2nd mile giving. Richard Vales is no longer able to continue his ministry.
- UMW - Cathy has agreed to be co-chair. Will meet in April at Sunny's. Women of Faith opportunity on June 23 at the Sears Center (\$61), meet for breakfast first. The next Women of Faith event will be on Oct 5/6; cost is \$91. See Cathy for tickets. (Add'l note: Melissa Bland agreed to take on the Rummage Sale this year, many others volunteered to help).
- WTTF Sunny reported that there will be events to raise money for a new sound system: a Valentine's Ball on Feb 11 and a dinner theater Apr 20/21.
- UMM - Feb 5th Spaghetti Dinner
- Lay Leader - JoAnne presented the Fasting/Praying calendar to pray for the ministries of the church during Lent. Sunny will present it in church as well. This Sunday is the last to order poinsettias.
- Memorial Committee - Julie said they are meeting Jan 26th. Also, this Sunday is the last to buy from Heifer Project.
- Christian Corner - Don said they read through the by-laws and realized they need to change the stated frequency of meetings. Also changed to create "classes" (terms) for board members. Thriving, running at almost capacity. Sunny said they will be having a Christmas party tomorrow (which is why we are meeting in the sanctuary tonight).

Cathy thanked everyone for their leadership. Thanks to Rich for his four years of service; has moved on to Finance. Lori Randall has joined as co-chair. Cathy noted that we have been running over lately, can we move the start time earlier? Rob moved, Doug seconded, that we move future meetings to 6:30.

Next regularly scheduled administrative council meeting

-Thursday, Jan 19th, at 6:30 pm

Closing Prayer approximately 9:10 led by Doug.

Minister of Education report.

On Sunday, December 11 SPRC chair Doug Meneely announced my resignation as I have accepted a new position at Glen Ellyn First UMC effective January 15, 2012. My last Sunday will be January 8, 2012. I will be preaching at both services that Sunday. I will also be sharing a message of healing and hope on Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00PM at the Blue Christmas (Longest Night) Service as well as preaching at the 4:30PM Family Christmas Eve service. I hope many of you will join me for one if not all of these services. I have fully enjoyed my time serving at Our Redeemer's. And will count it as a highlight in my time of ministry. Grace and peace to you all.

Rev. Elizabeth Bowes

Minister of Education

Our Redeemer's, Schaumburg, IL

Youth Director's Report

*Sr. high youth group has had a very successful fall program. We are going to Chicago on Sunday with the jr. high, we will be going to a nursing home on December 21 to play BINGO, sing carols, and have refreshments with the residents, and then we are taking some time off until January 8.

*The youth will again lead the congregation in the Souper Bowl of Caring on February 5—this is when we ask them to bring a can of soup or other non-perishable food item with \$1 attached. The food will benefit the pantry here at church and the money will be used to purchase grocery and gas cards. We will hand out a flyer on January 29.

*30 Hour Famine will be February 24-25 with Famine Sunday being on the 26th. I need to work with the trustees in communicating with the cleaning company that they will need to come that Saturday late—we are not out of the kitchen and Wesley Hall until at least 10pm. There will be a sign-up for help beginning mid to late January and I encourage any adults to come for at least a few hours...it is a wonderful experience.

That's it—thanks!

Marianne