

MINUTES
Church Council Meeting
July 14, 2010

The regular meeting of Church Council of First United Methodist Church, Williamstown, West Virginia, was called to order on Wednesday, July 14, 2010, at 6:42 p.m., and opened with prayer by Pastor Steve Gedon. Devotion was by Jon Dehmlow, reading from the book, "Sermons on the Mount."

In attendance were Kriss Bodnar, Program Ministries Chairperson; Steve Bodnar, Trustees Team Chairperson; Dee McCallister, UMW President and Lay Member to the Annual Conference; Jon Dehmlow, Finance Team Chairperson; Pam Middleton, Member-at-Large; Jim Hostottle, Member-at-Large; Steve Gedon, Pastor, and Betty Ball, Church Council Secretary.

The minutes of Church Council Meeting of June 16, 2010, had previously been submitted to those concerned. Motion was made and seconded to approve those minutes as submitted. Motion passed.

Finance - Jon Dehmlow thanked Dee McCallister for giving the State of the Church message to the congregation on July 11th. We are covering our operation expenses for the first six months of this year. Donations and other revenue are \$683.13 in the black but this doesn't take into account programs, which is an operating income loss, not what individual teams have raised. We still are \$800 short per week of what we would like to be. This is a challenge to everyone to increase their giving by \$5 or 5%. We have tried to budget some of the ministry programs and asked Program Ministry to come up with the balance of what they want to do. We are looking at stewardship campaigns for the fall and would like to offer an automatic withdrawal system for giving. This might be easier for those who pay bills on line. We will have someone from Stout Memorial Church to talk about stewardship, and have talked to people from the West Virginia Foundation in Charleston and will be seeking their help. There will be an article in Tidings on stewardship and where we stand financially. The team also talked about the repair of the stained glass window and there has been a desire to do a specific drive to raise funds for this. There is some interest income from some funds that could be used but we would like to get some from the special drive. The funds need to be "freed up" to pay the repair firm one-half the cost through the project and one-half at the end. They will let us know when they are coming and the project should be completed in a few weeks. We will need a quick turnover for the \$14,000. Trustee Steve Bodnar will contact the repair firm representative.

Trustees - Steve Bodnar reported that the stained glass window repair is the main project. If money is needed for that, they will take it from their budget. They can put off the improvements to the smoke alarm project. They have some painting and plaster issues at the Williams Street entrance and doorway. They will try to do it themselves but due to the height of some areas, may have to hire someone to do that. The organ has been tuned. There are some carpet issues but those have been put on hold. The team is getting estimates on needed repairs.

Kriss Bodnar asked, referring to the stained glass window, if we have considered a memorial for that. Jon said they hadn't gone into detail on a fund drive. Kriss mentioned that, since the window is a permanent fixture of the church, we could use it as a memorial and some people like to do that. Steve Bodnar suggested we have our Church Historian speak about that to the congregation, emphasizing leaving a legacy for people in this community, noting that it will be amazing when done, and discussing the beauty of the church. Jim Hostottle volunteered to take pictures of the beautiful stained glass windows, as well as the sun coming through the windows, making 16 x 20 prints that could easily be sold for \$50 to \$100. His idea was well accepted.

Program Ministries - Kriss reported that the team did not meet in July. They will be meeting in August. The youth returned from Creation and the next big event is Vacation Bible School. We need to show up and support VBS; everyone should want to be a part of that. After VBS they will begin work on the church picnic. They have reserved the shelter in Tomlinson Park and just need to find out what other events are going on in the park that might interfere with our picnic.

Dee noted that the United Methodist Women have a School of Christian Ministry the week of July 19th and three are going from this area, Sandra Boley, Jessica Boley and Dee. They will be exploring three areas of study - evangelism, the Sudan and I John.

Question was asked about expense of the Creation trip. Jon said \$1,874.60 has been expended for Creation and income revenue to offset that is \$100. He has no figures on additional expenses but should by next month's meeting. There were four adults and thirteen youth. Cost to attend is \$120 each. This does not include travel and other expenses. Steve Gedon noted that the youth fund raiser was at Easter and asked why the funds had not yet been deposited. Kriss checked with Kianna Anderson and was told that \$1,400 had been deposited this week.

Regarding worship, Steve Gedon said the feedback is that the congregation wants him to greet the congregation, and do the Call to Worship. We need to think who might step up to be Lay Leader, someone who would be an asset, have a sincere heart for God and the church, is called to lead and who would be accepted.

Steve Bodnar had a call from Chairperson Chip Pickering informing him that, regarding the proposed purchase of property at 434 Williams Avenue, he had sent out letters to individuals who had been active in giving, asking them if they would pledge toward this purchase. He had 60% response. The general feeling of those who have responded is that it is a good idea to buy the property though these are tough economic times. Chip has a commitment of \$20,000 with anticipation to come up with another \$20,000 to \$40,000, so he is hoping that we could pay \$60,000 down on the property and finance \$60,000. Consensus of respondents was that we should rent the property rather than start any new programs that would drain the budget. We can later use it for services. The majority of those people were in agreement it was the right thing to do. Steve Bodnar has been trying to get in touch with Mr. Sellers and asked Jon for help. John will e-mail him and ask him to call Steve. The property, as yet, is not on the market.

The mission team from St. James Church in Tampa is here this week. The newspaper sent a reporter to interview them about purpose of their trip. The team spent almost \$12,000 for cabinets for the EVE shelter. They will finish that project this week and will go to another individual in Parkersburg to work on his home. If they don't finish that project, we will. This group is not just from St. James; there are people here from Ohio whose son is part of the Tampa group. One of the leaders is helping to create an orphanage in Haiti and is hoping to get other people involved.

Meeting adjourned on motion at 7:30 p.m., and closed with prayer by Jon Dehmlow. Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August 11th, at 6:30 p.m.

Betty Ball, Church Council Secretary