

**MINUTES**  
**Church Council Meeting**  
**November 10, 2010**

The regular meeting of Church Council of First United Methodist Church, Williamstown, West Virginia, was called to order on Wednesday, November 10, 2010, at 6:35 p.m., and opened with prayer by Pastor Steve Gedon.

In attendance were Kriss Bodnar, Program Ministries Team Chairperson; Pam Middleton, Member-at-Large; Jon Dehmlow, Finance Team Chairperson; Jim Hostottle, Member-at-Large; Matt Young, Member-at-Large, Steve Gedon, Pastor, and Betty Ball, Church Council Secretary.

The minutes of Church Council Meeting of October 13, 2010, had previously been submitted to those concerned. Motion was made and seconded to approve those minutes as submitted. Motion passed.

Steve Gedon reported that a leadership dinner will be held at the Dehmlow farm near Marietta, Ohio, from 6 to 9 p.m. on Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, for Church Council members and spouses, as well as other team leaders and their spouses. Directions to the farm were provided. This will be an opportunity for fellowship and discussion of some of the issues of the church.

Tonia Bohnen and team have completed FUMC's five-year plan. She would like to meet with a few people in order to review the plan prior to it being presented to Church Council and subsequently the congregation. This review will be scheduled soon.

At the October 20<sup>th</sup> Charge Conference our church received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Annual Conference for our paying 100% of our 2009 apportionment.

The "Transformed Living Series" was deemed a success. On Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, we received 43 commitment cards. Seventy percent of Church Council members returned their commitment cards and, assuming average family income of \$50,000, giving level of leadership is at about five percent. Effectiveness of small groups was discussed and it was noted that at least three small groups will continue meeting after end of the series. Some thought the video wasn't as supportive as it could have been. The information was good and there was good discussion. Question was asked if the series resulted in increased church attendance. Steve Gedon said he wasn't sure if the 43 card return was a good number or not.

**Finance** - John Dehmlow reported that giving in October was good. We received more than \$26,000 for the month and we are seeing some increase over and above the operating expenses. We hope the last two months of this year will be strong as well. The stained glass window will be repaired beginning on Friday.

Ed Engle is examining funds in the ING account (formerly Scudder funds) and plans to

take the second payment out of that (\$7,000 each payment). There will be two payments between \$7,000 and \$8,000 in the next couple of weeks. We had talked about fund raising to pay for some of the cost of the window repair but just weren't sure when to do that. With such short notice, we could still do a mini-campaign, asking for a special offering for the window. For now, we will access the ING account; there is between \$80,000 and \$90,000 there.

Beginning November 15<sup>th</sup>, Finance will start a series of three meetings for reviewing budget requests from the various teams. Their plan is to have the budget ready to present to Church Council at the meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Ministry Fair held on October 31<sup>st</sup> gave Finance Team an opportunity to present forms that can be used for automatic withdrawal of funds for tithing to FUMC. There is a supply of forms in the church office for those wanting to contribute on-line. Matt asked if this information could be put on a slide to be shown on the screen to the congregation. Steve said he would check that out but would prefer to have someone speak to the congregation about that to alleviate any fears someone may have about the church having access to their bank account.

**Program Ministries** - Kriss Bodnar reported that the Youth Team raised \$400 for UNICEF and were pleased with the response to their talent show. The Ministry Fair went well and thought should be given to making this a regularly scheduled event on the third Sunday of October. The Transformed Living Series potluck dinner was a success. Their team is now gearing up for Advent. They hope to do a chili cook-off for UMCOR in January. This event was a huge success last year for Haiti relief. UMCOR is always a first responder in disasters and is most worthy of our support. She asked that we be in prayer for all the ministry teams. Jon said they regret that they haven't been able to budget for the teams' needs as much as they would like. Kriss said everyone has scaled back.

Pam asked if our youth are going to the fall workshop. It was reported that Jessie Boley plans to attend. Our youth group is young and that may have something to do with lack of attendance to this workshop. Steve Gedon reported that Sand Hill UMC is taking a bus to the UMC Youth Conference that is being held at Purdue University this year. He passed this information along to Joe Webb.

The Santa Shop will be held at FUMC December 6<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup>. Filling of shoe boxes will be held Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned on motion at 7:30 p.m. and closed with prayer by Steve Gedon. Next meeting of Church Council is tentatively scheduled for December 8, 2010, at 6:30 p.m.

Betty Ball, Church Council Secretary