

DALTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH COUNCIL

January 27, 2009

Church Parlor

ATTENDING:

Members:

Joe Hallsworth (Chairman), Steve Roan (Vice Chairman),
Curt Adams (Adult Ministries), Murray Bandy (Endowment Co-Chair),
Paul Belk (Lay Member to Annual Conference), John Bowling (Stewardship),
Jim Burdick (Worship), Paul Byrum (Music), Deck Cheatham (Joel Group),
Dick Coleman (Assistant Treasurer), Elaine Coleman (Congregational Care Co-Chair),
Terry Cullifer (Finance), Sandy Elder (United Methodist Women),
Bryan Hair (Communications), Blake King (Trustees),
Lou Kirkman (Congregational Care Co-Chair), Lowell Kirkman (Lay Leader),
C. S. Lee (Treasurer), Jody McClurg (Weekday Children's Ministry),
Doug Renz (Youth), Trammell Scott (Staff Parish Relations),
Sue Tuggle (Food Services), Lynn Tunnell (Missions Co-Chair),
Bob Weathersby (Endowment Co-Chair), Aquila Wright (Children's Council)

At-Large Members:

Fred Avett, Judge Billy Boyett, Gary Johnson, Fran Little, Charles Maret, Mary Pollard, Kerry Sikes

Church Staff:

Rev. Joe Peabody, Rev. Billy Beard, Rev. Homero Santos, Peter Infanger, Jan Byrum, Susie Brown, Lindsey Laney, Zach Conway

ABSENT:

Members:

Cheryl Baucom (Evangelism Co-Chair), Tim Baucom (Evangelism Co-Chair),
Dr. Bill McDaniel (United Methodist Men), Charles Miller (Lay Member to Annual Conference),
Dean Orem (Leisure & Recreation), Lynn Tunnell (Missions Co-Chair),

At-Large Members:

Jeff Hughes, Judge Robert Vining

Church Staff:

Rev. James Hughes

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING

- (1) Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Church Council Chair Joe Hallsworth.
- (2) Devotional was given by Steve Roan.
- (3) Joe Hallsworth's comments: You have been selected and have agreed to serve as a leader of this Church. We want you to come to the Church Council meetings, even if you don't have something to report. By doing this, you will get a feeling of what is going on in the Church; then you can talk about these things with others. Let's "talk up" the good things that are going on in our Church.
- (4) Joys and Concerns. *Joys:* Rev. Peabody announced that Ann Peabody's doctor had called to report that no cancer had been found in the lymph nodes; last weekend's Mission Celebration pledges are higher

than last year. *Concerns:* Janet Bandy is still at Erlanger Hospital - when she returns to Dalton, she will be staying with Dottie & Ken Boring; Jim Price and Sybil Boring are still in the hospital; Charles Robertson is at home; Bill Rice, Jr. is back at U.A.B. undergoing testing in regard to his liver transplant.

II. MINUTES

Minutes of the November 25, 2008 CHARGE CONFERENCE do not require approval, but copies were distributed to Church Council members as a matter of information.

Action: Upon motion made by Gary Johnson and seconded by Doug Renz, minutes of Church Council's last meeting of November 25, 2008 were approved.

III. CHURCH COUNCIL ORIENTATION

Introduction of Church Council Members

Orientation

Joe Hallsworth led Church Council through a brief Orientation.

Council members received specially-prepared Notebooks for 2009 which included (1) Church Council membership roster, (2) listings of the 2009 Church Ministries Leadership Teams, (3) two-page handout of "Things to Know," and (4) booklet titled, "Church Council-Connecting Vision and Ministry in Your Church."

Peter Infanger reminded Council members of the following weekly deadlines:

CHIMES – Mondays at Noon

CHURCH BULLETIN – Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

Church Council's 2009 Meeting Schedule

Church Council will meet the 4th Tuesday of every month - with the following exceptions:

- (1) Council will not meet in December.
- (2) Council will meet every month January through November "unless we decide not to," Joe Hallsworth said.

A show of hands vote was taken in regarding to changing the start time of the meetings to 6:00 p.m. or to 6:30 p.m. There being no clear mandate to make such a change, Joe Hallsworth announced that the meeting time will remain at 7:00 p.m. He asked Council members to be on time for the meetings, or even a little early.

A schedule of committee meetings will be put together when things are set.

IV. GOALS FOR 2009

Rev. Peabody reviewed the Church goals: *Creating a culture of Hospitality, Invitation, Discipleship, Volunteerism, and Outreach* (*Outreach* was added and approved at the November 25, 2008 Charge Conference meeting).

Rev. Peabody's comments:

- (1) I hope every committee in the Church will ask: "What can we as a committee do about creating an atmosphere of *hospitality*, of *invitation*, of *discipleship*, or *volunteerism*, and of *outreach*?"
- (2) As Church leaders I hope you will take each goal personally and ask: "What can I do to encourage *hospitality*, *invitation*, *discipleship*, *volunteerism*, and *outreach* in the life of the Church?"
- (3) If we can focus on these goals, we can truly make a difference in the life of the Church.

Copies of the Circuit Rider were distributed. Rev. Peabody said that every article in it addresses the matter of *hospitality*. He encouraged everyone to read the magazine.

Joe Hallsworth advised that the usual “We Will Statements” are not included as part of the work of committees this year. He asked committees to “put the Church GOALS on their meeting agendas and to talk about what the committees can do to accomplish them.”

V. TREASURER’S REPORT

C. S. Lee, Treasurer, reported the figures below. They reflect the financial situation at the end of 2008:

Cash in Bank \$169,080
Line of Credit (balance) \$444,909
Income (year to date) \$1,670,152
Expenses (year to date) \$1,638,600
Reserve allocation \$37,000
Short \$6,048

C. S. Lee said the Church “did better in ’08 than we’ve done in a long time.” Rev. Beard added that he thought this was “something to celebrate.” Joe Hallsworth ended by saying, “With prayers and faith, we can move mountains.”

VI. 2009 OPERATING BUDGET

C. S. Lee reported a small increase of about \$41,000 in the \$1,721,100 Budget for 2009. “We hope to decrease the deficit this year.”

Finance Committee Chair, Terry Cullifer, made a recommendation that Church Council adopt the proposed Budget as the official Operating Budget for 2009, as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Action: Church Council voted to approve the 2009 Church Budget as proposed and recommended by the Church Finance Committee.

VII. CHURCH CALENDAR

Feb. 1st: Youth-sponsored take-out *Chili Luncheon* following 11 o’clock worship.

Feb. 7th: *Prayer Seminar*, “A Praying Grace” led by Dr. Terry Teykl. 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Rev. Beard said that Dr. Teykl is the “real deal” and encouraged everyone to attend. Currently 22 people have registered; 150 registrations are needed to break even. Joe Hallsworth “challenged everyone to step up and sign up, and to encourage others to sign up. Let’s get excited about this program.”

Feb. 25th: *Ash Wednesday*

VIII. OLD BUSINESS – None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Communications Project Procedures

Bryan Hair reported that the Communications Committee had been working on ways for Church Council and committees to reach the congregation or the community. Contact person will be Ann Walker. “If you have questions, please let me know,” Bryan said. He reminded everyone that the communications plan is still very much a “work in progress.”

Upgrading of Youth Lounge

“We keep putting off doing an upgrade of the Youth Lounge,” Joe Hallsworth said. “I’d like to see us develop a plan of what we need and develop a cost. We’ll probably have to go outside the budget to raise the money.” Members of the Youth Lounge Committee are Lindsey Laney, Rev. Beard, Doug Renz, Debbie Macon (representing Trustees), and Cheryl Baucom (representing Evangelism). Both Doug Renz and Joe Hallsworth asked that all ideas and suggestions be given to the Youth Lounge Committee. “We want the opportunity to have an area good enough for other youth in the community to come and have fun and worship with our young people.”

Famber Hall Windows and Lighting

The comment was made that the window situation is more than a glare issue, it’s a matter of a change in atmosphere. Lowell Kirkman, Blake King, Matt Land, and Rev. Beard are working on the Famber Hall challenges: (1) the glare from the windows on Wednesday nights, and (2) an inability to control lighting during Sunday worship and at other events held in Famber Hall. Rev. Beard commented, “This is not just a remiX thing.” Lowell Kirkman advised, “We are in process to get some expert advice and cost estimates.” Joe Hallsworth said that work will continue on these matters and more info will be presented at future Church Council meetings.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Joel Group – Deck Cheatham, Chair

The Joel Group communicated to various groups in November and will prepare a presentation for Church Council at its February meeting. “Everyone is excited,” Deck said, “and if we implement what we are proposing, we will have the atmospheres of *hospitality, invitation, discipleship, volunteerism, and outreach.*”

Missions – Lynnne Tunnell, Co-Chair

Lynnne expressed thanks to all those who helped with the January 23-25 Missions Celebration. She said she hoped it was a blessing to all. There were 6 foreign missionaries and 15 local agencies represented at the Celebration. Approximately 280 people attended the Saturday evening banquet. Considering the Faith Promises made that weekend, the Missions budget will be slightly larger for 2009 than in 2008.

Worship – Jim Burdick, Chair

(1) Questionnaires are out for Church members to have an opportunity for input on what changes we might make regarding our worship services. “We hope to have some kind of consensus from the Church by the February Church Council meeting.”

(2) Lenten Services begin February 22. Weekly speakers will come from area Methodist Churches. There will be a Seder meal on Maundy Thursday, and the Discover Sunday School Class will do a reenactment of the Last Supper.

Communications – Bryan Hair, Chair

Bryan Hair reported that Bryan Morton has done a good job with the Church website. “We hope to get more in-depth with it throughout the year.”

Trustees – Blake King, Chair

Blake asked that Sunday, February 8, be added to the Church Calendar. Following the 11 o’clock worship service, Scouts will host an Open House at the newly-refurbished Scout Hut.

XI. STAFF REPORTS

Susie Brown

Over 566 boys and girls (1st through 12th grades) are participating in the basketball program. There are 135+ volunteers and coaches. Susie reported on an incident that occurred January 12 during a recent basketball game at one of the other participating Churches.

XII. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

- (1) Rev. Peabody distributed copies of the book, Five Practices of Faithful Congregations, written by Robert Schnase.
- (2) Next meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 24, 2009.
- (3) Doug Renz gave the closing prayer.
- (4) The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Neuls
Church Council Recorder