

DALTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH COUNCIL

February 24, 2009

Famber Hall

ATTENDING:

Members:

Joe Hallsworth (*Chairman*), Steve Roan (*Vice Chairman*), Curt Adams (*Adult Ministries*), Murray Bandy (*Endowment Co-Chair*), Cheryl Baucom (*Evangelism Co-Chair*), Tim Baucom (*Evangelism Co-Chair*), Paul Belk (*Lay Member to Annual Conference*), John Bowling (*Stewardship*), Jim Burdick (*Worship*), Paul Byrum (*Music*), Deck Cheatham (*Joel Group*), 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*), Charles Miller (*Lay Member to Annual Conference*), Doug Renz (*Youth*), Trammell Scott (*Staff Parish Relations*), Lynn Tunnell (*Missions Co-Chair*), Bob Weathersby (*Endowment Co-Chair*), Aquila Wright (*Children's Council*)

At-Large Members:

Fred Avett, Judge Billy Boyett, Jeff Hughes, Gary Johnson, Charles Maret, Mary Pollard, Kerry Sikes

Church Staff:

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

Others Present:

Linda Blackman, Becky Bowling, Fran Brantley, Louis Fordham, Ron Griffin, Bryan Hair, Chad Jordan, Matt Land, Bryan Macon, Bryan Morton, Carolyn Roan, Laura Rogers, Wyatt Rollins, Alice Squillario

ABSENT:

Members:

Dick Coleman (*Assistant Treasurer*), Dr. Bill McDaniel (*United Methodist Men*), Dean Orem (*Leisure & Recreation*), Sue Tuggle (*Food Services*), Lynn Tunnell (*Missions Co-Chair*)

At-Large Members:

Fran Little, Judge Robert Vining

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING

- (1) Meeting was called to order by Church Council Chair Joe Hallsworth at 7:05 p.m.
- (2) Rev. Peabody gave the opening prayer.
- (3) Joe Hallsworth welcomed everyone and expressed his appreciation for their attendance. He reviewed handout materials which were made available to those attending.
- (4) Rev. Beard listed the following concerns: Francis Whitener is the only known Church member who is in the hospital. Rev. Beard expressed sympathy to Terry Cullifer upon the death of his sister.
- (5) Joe Hallsworth reviewed upcoming events as listed in the Church Calendar section of the meeting Agenda. He reminded everyone of tomorrow night's Ash Wednesday service and Thursday's first-in-a-series Lenten Service.

II. MINUTES

Action: Upon motion made by Jim Burdick and seconded by Fred Avett, minutes of Church Council's last meeting of January 27, 2009 were approved.

III. FINANCE REPORT

C. S. Lee, Treasurer, gave a report as of the end of January, 2009:

Cash in Bank	\$122,434
Line of Credit (borrowed money)	\$ 441,484
Income	\$ 77,236
Expenses	\$ 140,805
SHORT:	\$ 63,569

C. S. said, "In January, we spent more than we took in. We had about 8 ½% expenses to about 4 ½% revenue. We had the lowest intake for January in a long time, but there is no cause for alarm yet."

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Youth Lounge Upgrade and Famber Hall Windows & Lighting

Joe Hallsworth reported that committees are working on these projects through the Trustees. The committees hope that by next month they will be able to present Church Council with plans and then decide what to do from there.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Joel Group Recommendation

Deck Cheatham, Chair, reminded Council that "the Joel Group was formed two years ago out of Church Council to address the following question: How do we organize the ministries to support the mission of this Church *To Make Disciples for Jesus Christ?* It was a way to take a critical look at what we do at this Church. We have focused on all those good things we are doing that grows the body of DFUMC."

Matt Land spoke on behalf of the Joel Group. He began by saying, "We are a blessed Church. We have an opportunity to do something significant that has great purpose." He presented a power point which gave detailed information on various questions and topics: Are we growing? Are we leading people to Jesus Christ? The CBS guideline – *Connecting, Building, Sending* – which lead to conversions.

The power point ended with the challenge and recommendation from the Joel Group.

Deck said that this is successful when it is focused on relationships and spiritual growth. This is simply no more than focusing on the things that we do here at DFUMC enabling you to reach a desired relationship with Jesus Christ so that you can share that with others.

Time was given for discussion among the attendees seated at each table. This was followed by a representative of each group summarizing its discussions.

Here are some of the points and questions brought forward:

- How do we challenge ourselves to be action-oriented?
- Are we growing?
- What is our ultimate goal?

- Where does the CBS leadership come from?
- Where is the accountability?
- Who is going to decide that a program does or does not meet the CBS criteria?
- How do we determine if we are experiencing spiritual growth?
- What is the role of the Joel Group?
- We are in favor of the change in process, but want to know how we get started and how we become action-oriented.
- We want this to help grow the traditional service.
- What is the answer to, “Are we growing?” What is our objective? What’s behind this?
- CBS is the basis of what we do, but how will we have a 3rd party help implement?
- How is measurement done? How do you measure spiritual growth? Who follows up?
- Where does the leadership come from?
- Who is the deciding factor on whether we implement or not?
- Who is the decider on the new programs? (“Church Council” was the answer given to this question.)
- Will this process slow down or encumber the growth of new programs?
- Where is the Joel Group in this process?
- How and who implements?
- To be successful, it will take a “Christ first” person.

Deck said that our next step will be to seek guidance from those who have experience, i.e. to bring in some outside consultants who can challenge our staff and committees to begin having the conversation about BCS (*Connecting, Building, Sending*). He sees the Joel Group as moving into the role of going out and researching and finding the answers about how to implement this process. Bryan Macon said he sees the Joel Group as being part of this process.

Motion: .The Joel Group (1) recommends that Church Council adopt the following mission statement for Dalton First United Methodist Church, and (2) asks that Church Council adopt the following mission statement as the operating process by which Church Council and Church Staff manage Church ministry.

**“Create Disciples for Jesus Christ by
Connecting a lost world to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ;
Building Christians through the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ,
 leading them to a spiritually disciplined Christian life;
 and Sending Christians to serve the mission of the gospel of Jesus Christ.”**

Rev. Peabody stated that we already have a *second* on the motion by virtue of the recommendation of the Joel Group.

Here are some of the additional questions and comments expressed prior to the vote:

- Who is responsible?
- Is this the kind of Church we want to be?
- We come to Church and we go home. How many of us take the opportunity to share our faith with others?
- We need to be about the business of helping others to find a relationship with God, and work together to make this Church the place we want it to be.

Action: Church Council voted unanimously in favor of adopting the recommendation of the Joel Group.

Deck Cheatham and Matt Land will work with Peter Infanger and Rev. Peabody to determine a date and time to make a presentation to the general Church membership. This presentation will be similar to the one made at tonight's Church Council meeting; it will give an opportunity for everyone to ask questions and learn about CBS (*Connecting, Building, Sending*).

Joe Hallsworth expressed appreciation to the Joel Group for doing a tremendous job. Now it is up to all of us to take this concept and make our Church a better place to be.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Endowment – Bob Weathersby, Co-Chair

Endowment Committee met February 12. At that meeting, members:

- (1) reviewed balance situation over last year, and voted on fund distribution for the year.
- (2) discussed plans to have Endowment information appear in future Chimes, and eventually to get a letter sent to Church members.
- (3) discussed updating Endowment brochure.
- (4) reviewed four major areas of giving.

The Committee hopes to become more visible in the Church, and to meet again in three to four weeks.

Trustees – Blake King, Chair

- (1) COMPLETED projects: Sanctuary painting; parking lot lighting replacement.
- (2) IN-PROGRESS projects: replacement of failing doors at center Sanctuary entrance and south preschool entrance; replacement of failing galvanized plumbing throughout the Church; working on annual preventive maintenance inspections on all facilities and outside properties.
- (3) UPCOMING projects: upgrades to first floor restrooms between Famber Hall and Sanctuary; assist with Youth Lounge and Famber Hall upgrades and refurbishments.

Stewardship – John Bowling, Chair

- (1) John reported that Stewardship is in the *Connecting* and *Building* stages.
- (2) A chair person is being added for the children's stewardship program; Jill Adcock will fill that position. Rita Fordham is the new prayer coordinator. Doug Renz will help with youth activities.
- (3) John said that we want to be sure that we are being good stewards in totality, not just in the realm of financial matters.
- (4) John reported that Rev. Melanie Dodson has agreed to serve as leader for our Church's Consecration Sunday scheduled for September 20.

VII. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

- (1) Joe Hallsworth expressed his hope that "we will look at this night as a monumental night in the life of our Church."
- (2) Steve Roan gave the closing prayer.
- (3) Next meeting is scheduled Tuesday, March 24, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.
- (4) The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Neuls, Church Council Recorder