

**Christ Church United Methodist
Administrative Council
March 21, 2005**

Call to Order/Hymn/Devotional

Meeting was called to order by Rick Ashton at 7:05 p.m. Dan Stokes led the group in singing Canticle of Prayer. Ryan Young then offered a devotional and prayer from the book of Exodus, looking at the theme of “wilderness.” Ryan described the Israelites, shortly after gaining their freedom from slavery, as an unruly, complaining bunch. God unleashed some fairly substantial punishment over the next 40 years or so...to help steer the Israelites in a “straighter” direction!! Ryan shared how he and a friend became lost in some “real-life” wilderness years ago, and how they cursed themselves and God for getting them into this predicament. The “wilderness” in our lives can take many different forms. In our culture, fast and painless is good...slow and uncomfortable is bad. But God cares more about our character than our comfort. In the wilderness, it’s quiet, with no distractions...a serene, barren landscape...perhaps the perfect opportunity to hear God’s voice...if we listen. Perhaps the wilderness is part of God’s road trip to His promise.

Charge Conference

Dr. Bill Moore, District Superintendent, presided over this Charge Conference. The conference was called to address two areas: salary increases for staff and replacement of church officers. Base salaries for 2005, which have been duly recommended by the Staff Parish Relations Committee, are as follows:

- Dr. George Strunk \$95,308.
- Bonnie Macdonald \$50,000.
- Aaron Mansfield \$52,000.

A vote was then called by Dr. Moore, and each of these salaries was unanimously approved by the Charge Conference.

Dr. Moore then asked Dr. Strunk to review the recent openings which have occurred with various church officers and committee members.

- Doug Arbuckle has recently resigned as Chairperson of the Finance Committee. Mark Jackson has been recommended to subsequently chair the committee.
- Walt Kunau has recently resigned as Stewardship Chair. Keith Spayd has been recommended to assume this role.
- Dan Tenfelde has recently resigned his position on the Finance Committee. Keith Spayd’s transition to Stewardship also leaves an opening on same committee. Allan Blake and Robert Shaver have been recommended to replace these gentlemen.

Dr. Moore then called for a vote, and all were unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made, and seconded, to accept the minutes from the January 24 Ad Council meeting. They were subsequently approved.

Ministry Teams

Outreach Ministry – Wenda Webster Fisher offered highlights from various missions that are in the works for 2005.

- ❑ The Bennett Center – a new effort this year. Many thanks to Leigh Ray for spearheading this project. August 7-13, multi-generational, kid-friendly trip to London, KY area. Will include VBS, home maintenance projects and community service throughout London.
- ❑ Estonia – has special meaning to Aaron Mansfield. Estonia is only country in what was Russia, where United Methodist church has survived. Aaron hopes that CCUM will go as a church to support them. Leigh Ray going on fact-finding trip with First UM church in Lexington in mid-July.
- ❑ Harrisburg, PA – this trip has transferred from youth choir to Missions Team focus, led by Shannon Seidt. Dan will not make the trip this year. Open to entire congregation, but traditionally has been geared to young adults. Offers children's Bible study, recreation, and music program for inner-city children.
- ❑ Mexico – our 3rd year. Led by Wenda, with Ginny Rodriquez (husband is Mexican pastor in Louisville), and Marco Ballesteros (Spanish pastor in Louisville). Going in late July. Construction projects and children's Bible study. Kentucky Conference is continuing to develop relationships in Mexico through Hispanic pastors that are here.
- ❑ Charlie Smith asked, on behalf of the Adventurer's Sunday School class, that the Henderson Settlement be included in listing of Missions. Over \$4000./year and several thousand children's books have been donated during 2003 and 2004, which helps to serve 80 families in this area of Appalachia.

High School Ministry – Mark Ray

- ❑ Confirmands are being supported every day up through confirmation with intentional prayer from members of CCUM congregation. Mark offered a prayer calendar to the Council, to fill in a few remaining open days for prayer for this special group.
- ❑ High School Fundraising Dinner, "Puttin' on the Ritz", is being held Wednesday, April 20, with a Big Band/Swing Era theme. The night will feature entertainment, reports on youth mission trips, a cake auction, and a silent auction. All funds will go toward mission trips and scholarship opportunities for youth mission trips.

Middle School Ministry – Margaret McCaslin

- ❑ Reported on behalf of Assoc. Youth Minister search committee
- ❑ Committee includes: 3 HS youth (Tembre Watkins, Ian Miller, Claire Garst), Wade Watkins, Shannon Herlihy, Tom and Carol Walton, Ryan Young, and Margaret McCaslin
- ❑ Job ad is posted on several websites. Margaret also encouraged networking with our contacts both inside and outside the CCUM congregation for any leads re: potential candidates.
- ❑ Still gathering resumes (have about 30 to date). Have made initial contact with a few. Will begin formal interviews within next couple of weeks.
- ❑ Hoping to have someone in place early to mid-summer.
- ❑ Question was asked re: current size of Middle School Youth group. Typically see 35-40 in attendance. Could potentially double or triple that number, just within existing congregation.

Pastor's Report

Dr. Strunk approached the Council with an emotional plea for prayer. He described feeling a real onslaught of spiritual warfare that seems to be happening in our midst, citing an alarming number of major health, personal, and family issues that 7-8 key staff people are currently enduring. George asked for our continued prayers for all of these individuals. With our current focus so heavily on the Building Campaign, and with several staff battling serious issues, our senior pastor is certainly carrying a huge load. He believes that the adversary is present...attempting to work against us. He asked that we pray, and pray some more...so that this process will reveal our strength, which we know is present here at Christ Church.

Trustees' Report – Barb Schissler

The Trustees originally asked for \$146,500. for upkeep, and has since deferred \$25,000. in expenditures to end of year, pending availability of funds. The ongoing maintenance list includes:

- ❑ Room divider in Room 105 – completed
- ❑ Unexpected \$14,600. roof repair near Tech lab – completed
- ❑ New freezer in kitchen – completed
- ❑ Various carpet replacement, window replacements, sidewalk repair, water fountains – completed

Trustees get ongoing reports from Building Committee. A Design Plan has been drawn up...the Design Committee and our consultant is meeting tomorrow night re: the new 3-story Christian Life Building which will be attached to the side of Fellowship Hall. The next key meeting will involve the Sanctuary Design. Tony has been asked to try and spend any monies evenly...and to be mindful of changes that will be coming with the new building project.

Treasurer/Financial Report – Doug Arbuckle

Doug expressed his excitement and confidence with the new group assuming roles within the Finance Committee. No real surprises on the balance sheet. We are in a healthy cash position, typical of this time in the year. Through February, we are \$10,000. over budget in contributions, thus our liquidity is very good. On Statement of Operations through February, we are \$52,000. below budget, and 23% above for this same period last year. This is also very encouraging, keeping in mind that we took an aggressive 17% increase in the budget for 2005.

Most departments are running under budget on the Expense side. The Capital improvements line is currently over budget due to the near \$15,000. roof repair mentioned above, along with unbudgeted legal expenses re: the Tandy lawsuit (\$3-4000. incurred YTD). Doug does not envision any significant financial exposure here.

In summary, we have significantly favorable variances YTD, mostly in programming and discretionary costs. Certain things are committed, but haven't yet been spent (i.e. computers, AV equipment, etc.) Thus, through February, we are 6% below on expenses, and 23% above on revenue. Keep in mind also that we elected to lower our eligible revenue from 16% to 14% for apportionments. They are basically running flat, which reflects this percentage reduction from last year.

A question was asked about uncollected/unpaid pledges in any given year. Doug answered that about 2-2 ½ % went unpaid for 2004. This number was about \$153,000, with \$27,000. of that having been paid in '05, and booked against '04.

Staff Parish Report – none

Old Business – none

New Business – “Prepare the Way” Campaign, Executive Committee recommendation
Dr. Strunk cited our recently approved Master Plan for the Building Campaign, with Phase I having an estimated cost of \$9 ½ - 11 ½ million. He described some concern from our membership about wanting to make sure this is not “all about us...” that in addition to the brick and mortar being added here, we’d like to support something similar, somewhere else, beyond our own walls.

The Executive Committee has heard from West Broadway and from Wesley Manor, but in the end, is recommending to the Council that we support the Portland Mission. The Committee is proposing that \$200,000., taken from funds being raised through the “Prepare the Way” Campaign, be given to Portland, for the purchase of a warehouse that is contiguous to their existing campus. This facility will be used to help train Portland residents with employable skills. This amount would be in addition to the original goal set for the Building Campaign.

Tom Walton then proposed that an additional \$300,000. be raised, to support mission projects in Uganda, Nigeria, Estonia, and the Henderson Settlement.

A lengthy discussion ensued, with concerns being voiced about an additional total of \$500,000. needing to be raised. One suggestion was to consider increasing our endowment fund monies at a later date, which could then possibly be used to fund these international mission trips, as well as other projects, on an ongoing basis. Individuals shared the importance of keeping our focus on what we’re currently trying to do here on our campus...that with the upcoming in-home meetings with the CCUM congregation re: the Master Plan, we want to have a clear message and single-minded focus. George then asked that we not become divided over this issue...that we consider proceeding with the support for Portland, much like we did in the previous building campaign, and then wait for clarity re: any other directions we’ll take.

Rick suggested that a vote be taken on the original \$200,000. for Portland, with a second vote to follow re: any additional amount for other projects. A motion was made and seconded to support the Portland request, and was unanimously approved. A motion was then made to delay committing additional funds at this point, which was seconded, and unanimously supported.

Rick praised the Council for the discussion, and its desire to obviously do more outside our own walls. He asked that we hold ourselves accountable to the future, and that should we have additional funds to disperse after we know the results of our campaign, we can make those decisions at that time.

Concerns and Praises

- ❑ Charlie Smith asked that we cover Melissa Mansfield with a blanket of prayer.
- ❑ Praises for Andrew Horne’s safe return from Iraq
- ❑ Praises and prayers for Dr. Strunk, feeling the heavy load of stress and responsibility with the many staff situations and the building campaign
- ❑ Dan Stokes described feeling incredibly privileged to be here. He stressed that the Lord is bringing us to a new place...and that if His purpose is to bring us to conviction...that He lay it on our hearts. We might currently feel lost in the wilderness, but God is giving us that Good Friday wait, inevitably bringing us to our Easter morning joy! Dan encouraged us all to continue to pray for each other and for Christ Church.

Dr. Bill Moore then closed with prayer. Meeting was then adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Faulkner
Recording Secretary

