

**Christ Church United Methodist
Charge Conference
November 21, 2005**

Call to Order/Hymn/Devotional

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Rick Ashton. Dr. Strunk opened the conference, with Dan Stokes leading the group in singing “How Great Thou Art.” Dr. Bill Moore then greeted those in attendance, and offered the Call to Worship and opening devotional and prayer. The theme for this Charge Conference is “A Heart for Worship.” Dr. Moore shared the story of Samuel, sent by God to “select a candidate” to become the King of Israel. Several were brought forth, none satisfactory. God then asked for additional candidates, and Samuel brought David, a shepherd...and a most unlikely leader... from tending sheep on the mountaintop! The scripture says “the Spirit of God came mightily upon David from that day forward.” What had our Lord seen...a heart prepared for God (I Samuel 16:7). David wasn’t perfect, but had a sense of who he was. He was made for a relationship with God, and so are we! Dr. Moore closed with a prayer, that God would prepare our hearts for the next phase in our walk, in the days and months ahead.

Welcome/Overview of meeting

Dr. Moore called on Dr. Strunk to set the stage for our Charge Conference. George began by describing the tremendous leadership which undergirds us here at Christ Church, including Bonnie Macdonald, Barb Schissler, Lee Ray, Dan Stokes and the entire Music Ministry, our facilities staff, along with our Trustees. George then described various developments which may be by-products of the Building Campaign, for which the congregation committed \$10.5 million in May of this year. The campaign has affected various facets of the church throughout 2005. Worship attendance for the year is down by an average of 50 people, possibly due to some negativity towards the Building campaign. Giving increased over last year, but with this fall’s Stewardship campaign, 2/3 are keeping pledges at same level as last year, vs. over 50% increasing pledges by 20% last year. We will be putting additional emphasis on Congregational Care going into 2006 and beyond, in anticipation of bringing in increasing numbers of new members, as well as taking care of those who have recently joined CCUM. We also plan to continue strengthening our leadership position within the conference.

Reception of Oral and Written Reports

Property Concerns – Denny Howell, Chp.

Dr. Strunk then turned the meeting over to Denny Howell and Dick Good, who provided the group with the latest on our building program. *(I will utilize portions of an excellent summary in the next few paragraphs, provided recently by Communications Chair for the Building Campaign, Dan Burgess. Thank you, Dan!!)*

The new Metro Government Board of Zoning Adjustment had raised questions about our parking plans, specifically re: enforcement of a 30 foot barrier at the front of the church, from US 42. We are currently at 17 feet. The Board is now satisfied that we are in compliance, and voted today (Nov. 21) to approve our plans!

Because preliminary construction bids for our project came in well above the \$10.5 million pledged, all parties involved have been diligently looking for ways to reduce costs while still addressing the needs identified in the long-range planning report. Thus, the group is recommending a few changes to the initial proposal:

- 1) A more traditional balcony, instead of proposed wraparound
- 2) A moveable rear wall for the sanctuary, allowing additional temporary seating for approximately 120. (Current sanctuary seats 760...new sanctuary will have seating for 1160 in fixed pews. The choir loft will have seating for 110.)
- 3) A slightly smaller overall footprint for the new education building
- 4) Leave one floor of the new education building unfinished for now
- 5) Postpone the most expensive portion of our parking plans

These changes will save over a million dollars in construction costs and defer another million for completion of some items later. This will put the cost well within our financial reach.

Thus, the Building Project will now be expanded to three phases:

Phase I:

- Build the Christian Life Center
 - 1st floor – Classrooms, etc., primarily for Seniors
 - 2nd floor – leave unfinished
 - 3rd floor – Staff offices, conference rooms, etc.
- Build the new entry
- Replace the Scout house with parking
- Keep our Portland Promise commitment

Phase II:

- Demolish existing offices and chapel
- Build the new sanctuary, with connecting bridge on 2nd floor into Christian Life Center

Phase III (deferrals)

- Renovate old sanctuary into Chapel
- Finish 2nd floor of Christian Life Center
- Finish 2nd new parking area at rear of church

A recommendation was then made by the Building and Planning Committee to approve Phase I and II for construction in 2006-2008, with the understanding that Phase III would be undertaken in later years.

Questions and discussion then followed about various issues: possibly placing footers now for a wraparound balcony later (very difficult), seating for our growing choir, utilization of funding w/existing dollars vs. financing, determining size of new Chapel, potential increases in our operating budget.

An audible vote was then requested, and the recommendation was unanimously approved by the Administrative Council. The entire church membership will be provided details for a final vote on January 22, just following the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

Mission Covenant – Sandy Bock, Admin Council, Chp.

Sandy offered a recommendation to adopt a 14.5% Mission Covenant, with the intention of working towards 16%. The Admin Council affirmed the covenant to support the work and mission of the Kentucky Annual Conference.

Clergy Compensation Report – Pam Knight, Staff Parish Relations Chp.

The Finance committee approved a 6.6 % increase in salaries for 2006, including a 3% across-the-board increase. Individual staff clergy were brought up to comparable staff salaries of other churches similar to CCUM. One additional position was also approved for 2006. The following base salaries were approved by the Charge Conference:

- Dr. George Strunk \$98,166.
- Rev. Aaron Mansfield \$53,560.
- Rev. Bonnie Macdonald \$51,500.

Report of Committee on Lay Leadership – George Strunk, Pastor

Dr. Strunk named and wholeheartedly thanked all those departing the Administrative Council, and subsequently filed a written report. Dr. Moore then asked for a voice vote adopting the new members of the Admin Council as recommended by the Lay Leadership Committee. The new group was unanimously approved.

Recommendation of Lay Speakers – George Strunk, Pastor

Dr. Moore asked for affirmation from the Charge Conference for the following Lay Speakers:

- Mark Coile
- Rick Rittenhouse
- Walt Kunau
- John Frederick

The group was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Recommendation of Candidates for Ministry – Pam Knight, SPR Chp.

Rebecca Heid was unanimously affirmed on her path to ministry as she works toward commissioning at the next Annual Conference.

Other –

Mark Jackson, Finance Committee chair, informed the group that BB&T has been selected to manage the Building fund. They currently handle all other regular CCUM accounts.

Dr. Moore acknowledged receipt of the Trustees report, and Deacons' reports from Karen Lovett and Bonnie Macdonald. He also expressed appreciation for accessibility to the recent mini-audit, as well as our providing a list of our high school Juniors and Seniors, used by Methodist colleges to make initial contacts.

A resolution was suggested for adoption which read "In response to the recent decision by the Judicial Council of the United Methodist Church supporting the right of a pastor to refuse membership to a gay person, we resolve that Christ Church United Methodist will welcome into church membership any and all who are committed to Christ. We denounce as a congregation any formal action by the United Methodist Church that

would allow for a pastor or any other member to determine who is worthy of a life in Jesus Christ.” After some discussion, a motion was made to table the proposed resolution. A voice vote was taken, and the issue was tabled.

After singing “Spirit of the Living God”, the Charge Conference was dismissed with a blessing by Dr. Moore at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Faulkner
Recording Secretary