

Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church

Church Council September 16, 2014

Church Council members present: Mary Cullen Bills, Allison Collins, Angela Frith, Jim Holcomb, Curt Jacobs, Samantha Klemme, Harvey Lowd, Mark Morgan, Meredith Morgan, Jim Royal, Tom Smothers, Al Ward

Staff members present: Erin Beall, Jay Butler, Anne Carroll, Debbie Foust, Scott Howell, Jared Stine, Susan Sumpter

Harvey Lowd called the meeting to order. Erin Beall opened with prayer.

The minutes of August 19, 2014, were approved as written.

Evangelism and Hospitality Chair Meredith Morgan shared information about the worship service that was held at the soccer field. About 35 people participated in the service. They also passed out WMUMC water bottles at the field.

Senior Pastor Al Ward announced permanent funding for the Choral Scholars program through major gifts from two donors.

Allison Collins, Chair of Children and Family Ministries, announced the new Greenhouse rotational Sunday School program. Attendance has increased since beginning the program the Sunday after Labor Day. She also shared the car magnets and brochures for the Children's Ministries programs.

Mary Cullen Bills, Chair of Student Ministries, reported an attendance of 150 students and parents at the Super Sunday kickoff evening. Sunday morning attendance has been about 50 for the past few Sunday mornings. Small groups began on Sunday nights, and MYF will occur once a month. This Sunday night will be a movie night.

Erin Beall, reporting for Adult and Spiritual Formation, reported positive feedback about the GROW event. She is plugging in the responses in hopes of helping people find areas where they can serve and grow spiritually.

Jim Holcomb for Missions and Community reviewed the Stop Hunger Now event. CropWalk will be on September 28th. Walkers and volunteers are needed to assist with the event. The team is also working on Gifts that Transform Our World for the Christmas season. WMUMC will be picking up food on Wednesdays and Fridays from three Guilford County Schools and taking it to the Open Door Shelter. Grants have been dispersed. Reports are now required in order for recipients to apply for a future grant.

Senior Pastor Al Ward reviewed the results of the Readiness 360 survey. 242 people responded to the survey. The survey is helping the staff think about how they work together as a team and gauge readiness for change in the critical areas of spiritual intensity, missional alignment, cultural openness, and dynamic relationships. A wide range of church members responded to the survey. The responses seemed indicative of those associated with established, mainline churches. The staff will continue

working with the consultant. Council discussed sharing the results with the congregation, especially individuals who took the survey.

Reporting for Finance Team, Scott Howell, reported that the August financials look excellent. Revenue is \$61,000 ahead of budget. The church and the school split the balance of the school's End-of-Year surplus. Expenses are running \$43,000 below budget. It is projected that that budget will come in about \$50,000 below what was projected. Consecration Sunday will be on November 23rd with two services and breakfast/mission activity between them. A narrative budget is also being created. Members of the Council will be asked to make their "leadership pledges" early in the stewardship campaign.

Chair of SPRT Tom Smothers noted appreciation for the staff. Evaluations of clergy are currently ongoing. Senior Pastor Al Ward noted that the cost of clergy health insurance to the churches will decrease. Individual costs to clergy will increase, however.

Chair of the Board of Trustees Curt Jacobs reported that the Trustees have been discussing liquid and less liquid assets. Trustees have discussed funds with BB&T regarding investments. They are also discussing and looking toward improvements needed to the parsonage.

Susan Sumpter reported that the school children will participate in a children's CropWalk. The playground is currently being installed, and the lower level is still being completed along with mulch and sod. It should be complete by the end of September.

Jay Butler, Director of Youth, reported that pumpkins will arrive at 10am on October 11th. People are needed to help unload and sell pumpkins.

Charge Conference will be held on November 10th and will also serve as the Church Council meeting for November. The next Church Council meeting will be October 21st.

Harry Lowd noted that this would be the last Council meeting for Curt Jacobs, who is moving to Raleigh, so the Council expressed its appreciation to Curt for involvement in the life of Wesley Memorial and his leadership on the Board of Trustees, and wished him well in his move.

Harvey Lowd adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Frith