

Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church
Church Council Minutes
October 20, 2015

The purpose of Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church is to make and sustain spiritually healthy followers of Jesus Christ who live in ways that transform the world.

Members present: Bryant Aldridge, Mary Cullen Bills, Laura Gibson, Jim Gooding, Jim Holcomb, Scott Howell, Gene Kester, Samantha Klemme, Michelle Lane, Harvey Lowd, Rita Meredith, Mark Morgan, Jim Royal, Dan Smoak, Pete Thompson and Al Ward.

Staff present: Jay Butler, Anne Carroll, Debbie Foust and Jared Stine

Pete Thompson called the meeting to order. Jim Holcomb gave the devotion.

Minutes were approved as corrected: *Action: After the completion of the renovations in the Soul Café, any unused funds in the Youth Area Renovation Fund will be returned to the general fund as excess cash.*

Al reported that during the first 43 weeks of 2015 worship attendance averaged 424, Sunday school 138. We have welcomed 28 new members this year and lost 33 members, 22 by death.

Al presented membership audit names in preparation for the November Charge Conference on November 17.

Upcoming sermons will be on Faith and Finances, based on a sermon by John Wesley...How people of faith deal with their money. November 22 is Stewardship Sunday- 2 services at 9:00 and 11:00. Jim Harnish will be our guest preacher. Wesley Memorial, Jamestown Methodist and First Methodist are working together to help Rankin Memorial UMC and Ward Street UMC. These two struggling churches share a pastor. Our District Superintendent has asked UMUMC to budget money in 2016 to help underwrite this pastor's salary. We want to reach out to people who are different than we are. Al said this is the way we can most effectively help these ministries.

Leadership development: Harvey reported that Nominations are almost complete.

Trustees: Bryant reported that bids are being collected for the addition to the Columbarium. The parsonage will lose 3 trees.

Finance: Jim reported everything looks good as we close in on the end of the year. In September, we received less than we budgeted – but year-to-date we are ahead of budget.

Staff Parish Relations: Jay Bennett and Chris Massey have been hired as Facility Coordinators. Al reminded us to thank Tommy and Keith for filling in since Phil Dixon resigned.

Children and Family Ministries: Kristy Dudley and Wendy Kitley are co-chairing Trunk or Treat, which will be held on Sunday October 25.

Congregational Care: Gene and Jared reported the team is organizing a day to recognize and honor all healthcare professionals. WMUMC is one of 9 churches

across the state invited to participate in a 2-year collaborative effort between Duke Medical and Duke Divinity Schools. This collaborative, called the “Reimagining Health” is focused on bridging the divide between the church and medicine. The Congregational Care Team’s idea is to help healthcare workers redefine their jobs as Christian vocations, gifted and talented by God to do the broader of work of Jesus Christ’s church.

Mission and Community Impact Team: Action: motion to approve ministry grants awarded:

1. Replace 22 beds at Leslie’s House
 - \$4,280.00 from Asbury Funds
 - \$8,356.50 from Missions Budget
2. Wheels for Hope
 - 4,500.00 to fix 3 cars
3. \$5,825.52 Stop Hunger now event. 170 people packed 2,000 meals.
Action passed.

Crop Walk was a success despite the weather. Hope to have more participation next year. Community Garden still producing with hopes of expanding next year with 3 plantings. All proceeds went to Open Door Ministries. Gifts That Transform Our World sales will begin on December 2.

Student Ministries: Mary Cullen reported that she and Kellie Hall have initiated Soul Food (similar to the old TLC), for middle and high school, on Wednesday nights in the soul Café. Sunday School attendance is up 50% from last year. 53 youth attended the Kersey Valley event on October 18. Valley Crucis Workshop will be November 13-15. Jay reported that the Pumpkin Patch can always use volunteers. There are 23 7th graders enrolled in confirmation class.

Wesley Memorial School: Sundaes on Sunday raised \$1,820.00 to benefit school scholarships, \$1,900.00 raised by children for Crop Walk and \$5,700.00 in cookie dough sales to supplement budget. First Autumnfest! Fall event to engage WMS parents, grandparents and church members was held on Wednesday, October 14 and Thursday October 15.

Worship Team: Received proposal from Church Interiors to enhance our contemporary worship service venue.

A team will be formed to look at the proposal and present recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

Rita reported that the Angel Tree, benefiting High Point Jail Ministry and Henderson Settlement, will be ready Sunday November 22.

Jared closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Gibson