

Epworth United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting – February 17, 2008

The Church Council of Epworth United Methodist Church met on February 17, 2008 with 24 members in attendance. The meeting was called to order by Ron Wilson and devotion and prayer led by Jim Wilson. The minutes from the called meeting of January 28, 2008 were read and amended to reflect the correct balance in the “Bus Fund”.

Rev. Chip Hunter gave an overview of the direction he felt our Church was being led. The three highlights were:

- 1: Call to prayer
- 2: God’s spirit unifying us as a body and bringing us together by His spirit
- 3: Faith in Christ and a better understanding of His presence in our meetings

Rev. Hunter noted that he plans to present a future sermon series on life in Christ and working together as a community of fellowship.

Brad Fiscus reported as Youth Director. They recently returned from a great experience at Warmth in the Winter. The theme was “The Eye of the Storm” and the message was about relying on God to get through storms in life. The youth are planning to lead the Good Friday service at the Church and are working on the program.

We will again have prayer stations set up in the sanctuary at the historic site from February 20th through the Easter season.

Frank Sweezey reported for the Trustees. The newly purchased bus will be picked up on February 18th. They will be investigating lettering on the outside and the installation of seat belts. There will be requirements in rules of operation and recordkeeping due to the size of the bus that must be adhered to. It was suggested that we have one contact person to co-ordinate the use and restrictions of the bus. Cindy Kurzrock inquired how the fuel cost would be allocated to the budget for the various groups using the van. It was decided that this will require further discussion by the Trustees. They will advise the terms and policies for use of the bus as well as the requirement of the log book and who is authorized to drive.

Carol Linberg reported for the Worship committee. There was a recent usher workshop that was very successful. They are currently planning the Maundy Thursday service which will be a presentation titled “Broken for You”. The children will continue the tradition of handling palm branches for Palm Sunday and decorating the cross in the Church for Easter Sunday.

The meeting was paused for a time of prayer led by Rev. Hunter.

Ellen Bryson presented information about our upcoming Global Outreach weekend. Plans are well under way and they will begin making reminder calls to members for

reservations. The Intra-Congregational Communications committee will be distributing a survey to the Church on March 9th to determine if we are effectively communicating with all in the congregation and request suggestions for any ideas. A copy of the survey is attached.

Mike Ketchum reported for Finance and a copy of the most recent report is attached to the minutes. There is a fund raising event in the planning stages to benefit local children's charities as well as the African mission trip. This will be a children's clothing sale and more information will follow. He noted that there will be a routine audit of our Church finances this year.

We were reminded of the Benevolence committee that was set up late in 2007 consisting of Stan Gunnells, Sarah Lillard and Robbie Tucker. Any special funding requests that money be donated to a specific beneficiary should be referred to this committee. In order to adhere to IRS regulations requests should go through this committee and they will make the decision of who will receive funds and how much will be donated.

Mike also noted that there is a need for procedures for establishing guidelines for programs that are not in the current budget but need to be added during the year.

The Evangelism committee will be addressing the issue of attendance registration and how best to accomplish this task and will bring their ideas to a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Wilson
Secretary