

Epworth United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting – March 16, 2008

The Church Council of Epworth United Methodist Church met on March 16, 2008 with 19 members present. The meeting was opened with a devotional and prayer by Ron Wilson. The minutes from the last meeting were amended and approved.

There was discussion of the budget for new programs and Mike Ketchum asked for clarification of who would bring request to the Church Council. It was agreed that we need a standard operating procedure and this will be discussed at the April meeting.

Rev. Chip Hunter discussed his recent sermon series and how it related to the vision in our hearts here at Epworth. God gave us a vision in the early 1990's and we purchased the 40 acres where we are now located. Several years later there were plans for a new building and now we are saving money for a future building. He noted that we have great Sunday School classes and he sees the joy our long time members have for our new, young members. God is meshing us together and expanding our boundaries.

Brad Fiscus reported for the Youth. They are currently preparing for the Good Friday service. The service is titled "The Service of the Nails" and will last approximately 30 – 45 minutes and take place at the historic site. They are planning a mission trip to Gulfport, MS. After many years participating at Mountain Top they feel this will be a new direction for their group. We are asked to be in prayer for the conference youth position that is being done away with. There will now be one leader for children, youth and young adults. There will be a kickoff meeting on April 17th for next year's sixth graders. They are developing a group that will be driven by parents and led by Brad and plan to have one activity each month.

Frank Swezey reported for the Trustees. The wallpaper will be replaced throughout the entire historic site. The icemaker in the kitchen will be replaced with an industrial machine that produces 90 lbs of ice daily. The lettering on the bus has been completed. We currently have 3 persons with CDL license to operate the bus, Fred Wilson, Darryl McGhan and Burl Mayfield. We are seeking additional qualified drivers.

Mike Ketchum reported for Finance. The building fund balance is currently at \$338,000. He requested that all remember to complete vouchers correctly and on time in order to assist Melody Sipes.

Rev. Chip Hunter reviewed the recent Global Outreach weekend event. He feels Epworth's mission is about the mission of God and not our own needs. He noted that we can expand our boundaries in mission and ministry before we have a new building. He asked for an endorsement to partner with the Mission Society. A report is attached to the minutes outlining what this would involve and the benefits from proceeding with this program.

Ron Wilson opened the floor for discussion regarding this endorsement. Vic Linberg noted that during the UMM meeting yesterday they drafted a letter indicating their support for the program and the signed letter is attached to the minutes. Mike Ketchum questioned if there was a group related to the UMC that we could work with and Rev. Hunter noted that there was. Frank Sweezey pointed out that this group already has the tools in place. Alyne Wesley questioned if we would need another committee appointed to oversee this. Rev. Hunter indicated that he could see the Nehemiah committee becoming this team. Melody Sipes asked if the Mission committee within our Church supported this idea and three members present indicated they were. Melody Sipes raised the question of whether the Mission Society is a business and how do they make their money. Rev. Hunter advised that they take up love offerings when they lead seminars.

Mike Ketchum asked how we would relay to the congregation what we are doing and what are our plans for future growth and a new building. Ellen Bryson commented on the Companions in Christ study and the spiritual gifts from within the Church that would be used to go out into the world. Ron Wilson reminded everyone of our goals and that the #2 goal was that our goal should be about God's great commission, no matter how near or far.

Steve Fisher made the motion that we partner with the Mission Society and form a plan to implement their program. Mike Courtelis gave a second to the motion. The motion was approved after a prayer led by Ron Wilson.

The next meeting in April will include discussion of the century celebration for Epworth and what the next 100 years will bring as well as strategic goals and committee updates.

Ron Wilson asked that the Nehemiah committee review the Mission Society plan.

Alyne Wesley reported for Sunday School. She noted that they are discussing using our space wisely and finding a home for the Couples in Christ class.

The meeting was adjourned with a closing thought, "how much of our future time will we give to God and how will we live for him"? The meeting was closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mandy Hastings for Lisa Wilson
Secretary.