



The B-DRPC Session met for its stated meeting on January 29, at 6:00 pm in the Church Lounge. The meeting was opened with a devotion and prayer followed by sharing of concerns of members of our church family.

Ministry Team (MT) Reports to Session:

Care Giving Division – Carolyn Turner, Lead Elder; Freddie Hart, Elder

Congregational Care: Mary Beth Cox, Chair

Commissioned Deacons: Marilyn Massey, Chair

At the September Session meeting, the Congregational Care MT was asked to form a Task Force to further study their recommendation that the Deacons serve 3-year terms with 15 Deacons in each Class. Members include Howard Barnes, Sue Heglar, Paula Jackson, Marilyn Massey, Chair of Commissioned Deacons and Carolyn Turner, Lead Elder of CCMT. This Task Force met and discussed the advantages and possible concern.

The advantages are continuity of member/family care that would also increase communication between the member-Deacon-ministry staff, present Commissioned Deacons like this idea, and there would be less work for the Nominating Committee. A possible concern would be getting members to commit to serving three years.

The Task Force recommended that the Deacons be formed into three classes with 11 Deacons in each class (this number could change as the church membership changes). This process may take two or three years. Upon the formation of three classes, a chair, vice-chair, and secretary will be chosen. The Deacons will meet four times per year, and the Lead Elder of CCMT will report to the Session. It was also recommended that the Commissioned Deacons be called Deacons. A motion was approved that would allow the Deacons to be formed into three classes with 11 in each class. This number could change as church membership changes.

Fellowship Relations Committee:

The Session accepted the proposal from the Fellowship Relations Task Force to become a Standing Committee operating under the Care Giving Division. This Standing Committee will assist in identifying possible areas of conflict, and refer members to the appropriate resource, Session member or Ministry Team for clarification. The functions of this new Standing Committee are ongoing education and training in coordination with the Communications MT on issues of church operation, fellowship relations, problem solving and conflict resolution. This committee will assist in the identification and provision of trained personnel, if needed, to facilitate processes that may lead to relationship healing in the church. Any concerns regarding the ordained ministry will be referred to the Committee on Ministry.

Church Family Division – Don Gentle, Lead Elder; Tammy Nye, Elder

Membership: Don Gentle, Lead Elder. Edna Bell, Chair.

Corinne Hachbold reported that she has people lined up to attend the Bread Cart for January and part of February. She has plenty of bread on hand at this time.

Linda Goodwin reported that she made two phone calls to visitors in December.

Edna Bell reported that the next Inquirer's Class will be sometime in February.

Three couples joined the church on Jan. 11th. Roger and Jane Shiley, Spike and Nancy Dumville and Will and Drew Deane-Morris. Corinne Hachbold and Linda Goodwin were at the early service to escort new members to Davidson River Hall for coffee and to introduce them to members of the congregation. Edna Bell was available for the second service.

Pictures of new members are up to date. When Steve Hogenboom is not available Corinne Hachbold, Don Gentle and Edna Bell will fill in.

Ann Hinze said she has delivered a New Member Packet to Dave and Lee Collins.

Another page is near completion for the Pictorial Directory.

Eunice James reported that she is working on the attendance records for November and December and will give her Attendance Analysis Report at the next meeting.

Tammy Nye was welcomed as a new Elder. There was a lot of discussion about adding a new adult Sunday school class that would involve its members in community service projects. There may be members interested in attending a class such as this. Inquirer's Class members and new members will be screened to see what type of adult Sunday school class they are interested in attending. Information obtained concerning the possibility of a new adult Sunday school class will be forwarded to Christian Education MT. A motion was approved that would allow sustaining (new term that will replace inactive) Elders to be included in the list of officers to attend and sit together during memorial services at B-DRPC.

History: Elders are asked to attend memorial services for members "when feasible". In the recent past, it has been noted that a limited number of Elders have been able to attend memorial services for our members.

Finance Division – Tom Taylor, Lead Elder; John Hachbold & Phillip Jerome, Elders

Finance: Rick Mills, Chair

The year-end 2008 financial statements show that the operating budget finished the year with a small surplus of \$1,010.72. However, the surplus was achieved only as a result of a freeze on discretionary spending for the final months of 2008, a good response by the congregation to appeals for increased giving for 2008, and \$7,000 granted by the Special Funds Committee to the Preschool for scholarships to help offset a loss of revenue due to student withdrawals at the beginning of the school year. The General Fund deficit at the end of 2008 stood at \$23,391, and this shortfall will be carried forward into 2009. The General Fund deficit reflects monies that we have borrowed from restricted funds in order to fund the operating budget.

Recommended guidelines for the 2009 budget were discussed. The FMT agreed that budget forecasts, particularly revenue, must be made on a conservative basis to avoid year-end deficits and urgent appeals to the congregation for additional giving. In particular, a conservative approach should be taken with respect to Unpledged Receipts and Loose Offering, both of which are difficult to accurately predict. Historically, Unpledged Receipts have averaged about 10% of total revenues for the church and Loose Offering has declined significantly in recent years. A conservative approach for Pledged Receipts is also warranted, with historical data indicating that the church actually receives only about 97% of the pledged amount in any given year.

A recommendation to the Session for budgeted 2009 revenues was discussed and approved. Using the conservative approach described above, total revenues for 2009 were forecast to be \$544,446 (2008 budgeted revenues = \$602,041 and 2008 actual revenues = \$598,614). The 2009 revenue forecast includes: Pledges—\$467,702; New Pledges—\$10,000; Postpaid Pledges—\$3,000; Loose Plate Offering—\$4,500; Unpledged Receipts—\$54,444; Misc. Income—\$4,800.

Based on anticipated revenues, the FMT agreed that church spending and operations in 2009 should be consistent with economic conditions at the church and in the economy. Furthermore, all areas of church operation should share the impact of these financial conditions. In keeping with this reality, the FMT reluctantly agreed on a recommendation to the Session that there be no salary increases for staff members in the 2009 budget. Since the Session had previously approved an increase for the Senior Pastor, Tom Taylor agreed to speak with Rev. Thompson about the FMT recommendation.

A final 2009 budget recommendation for the Session was prepared using \$544,446 in revenues, estimates of fixed expenditures based on input from the appropriate ministry teams and staff, and pro-rated estimates of expenditures for benevolences and ministries based on a percentage of ministry team requests in these areas. Furthermore, the FMT agreed on a recommendation to the Session that any sustainable surplus occurring in 2009 be used in one or more of three areas: reduction of the General Fund deficit, reconsideration of salary increases for staff (ordained and non-ordained), and ministries. A called meeting of the Session was being scheduled to discuss and approve a final 2009 budget for B-DRPC.

See end of Brief for a review of the Called Session meeting to approve the 09 budget.

Stewardship:

As of 1/5/2009 we received 234 pledges for 2009 in the amount of \$482,167 compared to 226/\$472,937 in 2008. Compared to 2008, the 2009 pledge results included 36 new pledges, 82 pledges that were increased, 28 pledges that were decreased, and 28 pledges that stopped or have not yet been received. The average pledge for 2009 was \$2,061, which is below the 2008 average of \$2,093.

Spiritual Life Division – Larry Goodwin, Lead Elder; Tom Taylor & Tammy Nye, Elders
Worship Ministry Team: Mary Johnson, Chair

Worship activities for the next month, and for the Lenten season were finalized:

February 1	Souper Bowl of Caring Lunch
February 8	Boy Scout Sunday
February 22	Congregational Meeting
February 24	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 5:30 pm (replaces Midweek Manna)
February 25	Ash Wednesday Service, 6:30 pm
March 20	Noon Lent Service and Lunch
April 5	Palm Sunday
April 9	Maundy Thursday, 7:30 pm
April 12	Easter

It was suggested that a new stand for Easter lilies and Christmas poinsettias be requested. Pat Russell has agreed to decorate for Christmas again this year. The Team made preliminary adjustments to this year's budget, based on the limited availability of funding.

Communications Division – Ginny Bradford, Lead Elder; Don Stinchcomb, Elder

Communications: Don Stinchcomb, Chair

The next Congregational Meeting was discussed and as last year will be the Annual Meeting. If approved, it will be on February 22 following the 11:00 am worship service and will last one hour. The following information about the meeting was determined: Phillip Jerome will be asked to be the MC. Tom Taylor will be asked to discuss the 2009 budget, preschool update and how priorities were established. Paula Jackson and Cathy Gary will discuss concerns with the kitchen. A printed Annual Report will be available as members leave the meeting. The first announcement for the Annual Meeting will be February 8 in the bulletin and announced from the pulpit.

Don Stinchcomb presented the first extended announcement December 21 at the beginning of each worship service. The topic was pledging and how B-DRPC members compare to PC-USA churches of our size (large congregation) nationally. He stated that B-DRPC members fall below and encouraged each member to increase his/her pledge by \$5/week. He explained that periodically information will be shared with the congregation through these extended announcements. This information was well received.

The five-sided kiosk on casters, made by John Vanderschaaf and designed by Julie Singdahlsen, was delivered by John, his neighbor and Luck Shepherd on December 18 and placed in the narthex so members could see it as they entered the sanctuary. It will be used as an information center and has pockets, bulletin boards and a large storage area with doors. Ginny Bradford will write a letter to John from the Communications MT and put an announcement in the newsletter. Carolyn Turner will check on some white board markers on chains and erasers for the white bulletin boards. Sadie Carlson has agreed to be in charge of keeping the kiosk tidy. An email will be sent to all Elders/Chairs of MTs and Kristen Clanton/Youth to encourage them to use the bulletin boards on the kiosk to share information with the congregation. They were asked to date their notices so that Sadie can remove the oldest ones. The Alternative Gift Bazaar totals will be included on the bulletin board.

Transylvania Times church announcements were reviewed for the next few months and it was determined that the Souper Bowl of Caring, Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday would be articles of interest for the paper. Kristen will be asked to send an article concerning Souper Bowl of Caring.

Standing Committee of the Session

Nominating Committee: Tom Taylor, Chair; Steve Letterman and Glenn Winston, members-at-large

The submitted list of Deacons were approved to be commissioned to serve the congregation of B-DRPC for the period of 2/1/2009 through 1/31/2010 as provided in the Book of Order (G6.0403b).

Administration Division – Phillip Jerome, Lead Elder; Jim Ansley & Lew Sayre, Elders

Personnel: Glenn Cutler, Chair

The Personnel MT did not have a scheduled meeting in January.

Committee on Ministry: Ginny Bradford, Chair

The Committee on Ministry meets quarterly.

Special Funds Management Committee: John Rowe, Chair

This Committee did not have a scheduled meeting in January.

Mission Division – Ginny Bradford, Lead Elder; Don Stinchcomb, Elder

Peace and Justice: Judith West, Chair

The January meeting was rescheduled for February.

Local Outreach: Luck Shepherd, Chair

Kristen Clanton announced that on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 1, youth armed with soup pots will be collecting canned goods and dollars here at B-DRPC and Presbyterian churches across the country for the annual Souper Bowl of Caring. The Presbyterian-founded, youth-oriented anti-hunger campaign takes advantage of the NFL championship game to raise money for the poor and ill-nourished. The youth are the face of the operation, but we will need people to make soup and to help the youth to serve in Davidson River Hall after the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Last year we collected over \$800 and we are hoping to collect over \$1,000 this year!

Ruth Waugaman and Alice Dalton reported that Bill and Mary Kay Jennings are delivering our contributions to Sharing House for the month of January and Norm and Sue Macoy are delivery for the month of February.

Gail Blunt, Sharing House contact, stated that after talking with Meredith Springs at Sharing House to determine what donation items could/should be emphasized at the moment, she stressed that items which cannot be purchased with food stamps rank high. The two main categories for these are personal care products and cleaning supplies.

Personal care top needs: Toothpaste and toothbrushes
 Deodorant
 Shampoo
 Hand Soap

Cleaning Supplies: All cleaning products, soaps and especially paper towels
With the colder weather, good serviceable blankets are also needed.

For all year around giving:

Since Sharing House has been selected this year for donations each and every month, it might be nice to have a “theme” for each month to keep the thought of giving fresh in everyone’s mind. For example,

since February is both Valentine's and Heart month, our theme could be: "Remember Sharing House with a Warm Heart". We could work that month to collect blankets, coats, mittens, etc. Easter and spring for April could be "spring cleaning"), May flowers (with May baskets of whatever is most needed then), etc. The youth, with Kristen's help, could design posters for the bulletin boards to remind people what the need for that month is. It could also appear in the Sunday bulletin inserts, the website and the newsletter.

Gail Blunt and Bob Singdahlsen are the two General Assembly representatives for Sharing House from B-DRPC.

Horty Menser stated that since May, 225 phone cards have been sent. The latest communication received from Iraq was in a Christmas card from the Mountain Division:

"Thank you for thinking of us and sending over the phone cards for us to be able to call family and friends during this time of year. God bless you and your families for this very kind gift." And from CW3 Gary Howell: "Thank you for all you have done for us! Best wishes this year in all you do! God bless all of you for the blessings you have given us. Thanks for your thoughts and prayers for us and our families."

Faye Paden stated that the December 5-cents a meal offering totaled \$388.03 with year-to-date being \$5552.03.

The name House Call is an appropriate name for our church's new venture into spreading God's love throughout the community. The team has been attending to some very sick houses since September. Western Carolina Community Action and several individuals have referred eight cases to us with problems the families could not handle themselves. Those needing help ranged in age from 32 to 93. Eleven House Call volunteers expended over 160 hours from September through December. Six projects were completed and work continues on one. The other was not started since it was beyond the team's capabilities.

Peace and Justice: Judith West, Chair

No meeting in January.

Worldwide Ministries: Ginny Bradford, Acting Chair

Judy Nebrig discussed the Guatemala Scholarships and gave a Partnership update. There was a Partnership meeting at Black Mountain Presbyterian Church January 11. There are now 43 students who have sponsors at B-DRPC enabling these students to attend school. The Presbytery Partnership has a Health Committee that is involved with health issue of the students and the community. More information concerning this Health Committee and its roll in the Partnership will be included in the next newsletter.

The Alternative Gift Bazaar took place December 7, 14, and 21 in the DRH after each worship service with an overwhelming response: Sharing House heating assistance (including matching funds) \$8360; Heifer International \$1380; Presbytery – plumpy nuts and mosquito nets \$388; and Guatemala Scholarship Sponsors (collected since Oct) \$4200 with a total of \$14,328.

Ginny Bradford discussed the 09 Operating Budget and more specifically 09 Mission_Division Budget. Since funding has been cut, it will be the task of Mission Division to allocate its percent of total available revenue. The Denomination funding is now under Mission Division. A meeting will be scheduled with representatives from MTs of Mission Division to determine the new budget for Mission. The Session

approved sending the remaining balance of \$100 for the missionary commitment. It was also announced that the 08 missionary funding and Sharing House are now paid in full.

New Business included the approval of holding a Congregational Meeting on February 22 following the 11:00 worship service that will be the Annual Meeting.

Martha Taylor, Chair of Christian Ed, would like input from the Session about Christian Ed being a focus area, and more specifically, what does that look like to the Session as a whole and/or to individual Session members. Each member was asked to contact Martha with ideas and be prepared to discuss this at the next Session meeting.

The meeting was adjourned with a circle of prayer led by The Rev. Dr. Keith Thompson.

A Congregational Meeting was held January 11, 2009, following the 11:00 am worship service for the purpose of changing the Call of The Rev. Dr. Keith Thompson and to elect Paula Jackson as an Alternate Elder for the Class of 2011 Elders.

Paula Jackson was elected as an Alternate Elder for the Class of 2011 Elders.

The Session had voted to recommend to the congregation that the total compensation paid to Pastor Keith Thompson for the calendar year of 2009 be \$80,996 which was a 2.5% increase. It was noted that because of the current financial situation, Pastor Thompson wished to decline the increase and asked that the congregation honor his request and vote no to the motion which they did.

It was recommended that the Session reviews Pastor Thompson's call in June, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

A Called Meeting of the Session was held January 13, 2009, for the purpose of reviewing and approving the 2009 B-DRPC budget. Pledge statistics and budgeted revenues were discussed as well as the General Fund carry forward (deficit of \$23,391).

A motion was approved to accept the total revenues of \$544,446 projected in the 2009 church budget.

Fixed expenses were discussed and several items were adjusted with the total expenses being \$507,946. Benevolences and ministries were discussed and after covering fixed costs, \$36,500 remained to be distributed among benevolences and ministries. A percent of the requested amount was applied to each ministry team. Each MT was asked to meet before January 31 to determine how they would allocate their budgeted amount.

After discussion, Denomination (Presbytery/Synod/GA) funding was moved to Mission Division.

Weekday Children's Ministry (Preschool) will now have a fixed amount in advance for the coming year that has been reduced by nearly two-thirds. It was suggested that keeping the congregation informed about the Preschool during this time is important and that a Ministry Update would be worthwhile.

When extra revenues are received over the \$36,500, a priority for this revenue was discussed and a motion approved with the priority for using extra revenue being:

1. Pay off deficit (\$23,400) 50%
2. Salaries 40%
3. Mission 10%

The budget will be reviewed monthly to determine extra revenue available.

A motion was approved to accept the 2009 B-DRPC Operating Budget.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Ginny Bradford, Elder

THE SESSION

The Rev. Dr. Keith Thompson, Moderator

CLASS OF 2009

Jim Ansley

Dan Bennett, Clerk of Session

Don Gentle

Tom Taylor

CLASS OF 2010

Larry Goodwin

Phillip Jerome

Don Stinchcomb

Carolyn Turner

Sara Winston

CLASS OF 2011

Ginny Bradford, Asst Clerk of Session

John Hachbold

Freddie Hart

Tammy Nye

Lew Sayre