

May Session Brief

The B-DRPC Session met for its stated meeting on May 20, 2008, 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:

Church Family Division – Co-Lead Elders Sara Champion and Don Gentle

Church Family Fellowship: Sara Champion, Lead Elder. Jinks Ramsey, Chair. The Pentecost/Mother's Day Coffee was well received. The Church Retreat weekend is set for September 20th. The Church Retreat Committee (Rod Webb, Chair, Charlie Steele, Jinks Ramsey, and Sara Champion) met with Jeff Turner, Keith Thompson, and Kristen Clanton at Camp Highrocks, once again the site of the Retreat. The format and theme of the weekend were discussed. The theme of the event is "Moving Forward Together".

Membership: Don Gentle, Lead Elder/Chair. The MT met May 19^h. Two loaves of bread were picked up in April. Bread Cart volunteers are needed. Calling visitors who attended worship services continues. The Inquiry Class is being developed with ideas for the host, class dates and curriculum. The church membership roster was reviewed concerning new members, dismissals and deaths. MT members are involved in photo taking of new members, new member packets, maintaining the new member picture board, and dinners/lunches for new members. A letter is also mailed to visitors.

Finance Division – Tom Taylor, Lead Elder

Finance: Tom Taylor, Chair. Phillip Jerome, Elder. The MT met May 8th. The operating budget ended the month of March 2008 with a negative balance of \$6,718.10 for the month and a positive year-to-date balance of \$14,195.71.

Jim Ansley discussed monies required to refurbish several rooms in the preschool wing. Compete estimates were not available at the time of the meeting. However, funding for the projects will be drawn from the Plant Maintenance Reserve fund and, if needed, from the Capital Fund–Maintenance. Once complete estimates are in hand, the FMT will be advised.

Dean McGaha is conducting an annual review of the books and will present his findings at the June 2008 FMT meeting.

Communications Division – Co-Lead Elders Ginny Bradford and Judy Caldwell

Communications: The ministry team met May 9th. Cathy Gary has agreed to be one of the reporters serving on the Newsletter Staff Team. Her first two assignments are to write articles about the Presbyterian Men and the Columbarium. A motion to approve the additional section in the Officers' Manual "Communications Division" was approved. An update on progress being made in building a kiosk was discussed. John Vanderschaaf has agreed to construct a five-sided kiosk, and this was approved by Session. A motion was approved to allow Phillip Jerome to develop a Power Point template to be used at quarterly "informational" congregational meetings. New ways to recruit team members for Rise and Shine was discussed and will be referred to

Cathy Gary who will contact past and present volunteers so that they could give details concerning the commitment required to be a Rise and Shine team member. CMT is currently recruiting two new members-at-large. The next meeting will be Friday, June 6th, at 10:00 am.

Administration Division – John Rowe, Lead Elder

Property: Jim Ansley, Lead Elder. Wes Branning, Chair. The Preschool will undergo some refurbishing during the August break. The ceilings in two large classrooms and one small classroom will be replaced at an estimated cost of \$12,967.00. The estimates for the electrical work and heating ducts are pending. The floor in the nursery is also waiting on an estimate. We had a successful workday with 20 people attending. We want to thank those who participated: Celia Ansley, Jim Ansley, Carl Behrens, Carol Branning, Wes Branning, Fowler Dugger, Ann Hinze, Jay Hinze, Steve Hogenboom, Eunice James, Rena Letterman, Steve Letterman, Jack Powers, Lew Sayre, George Simpson, Martha Taylor, Tom Taylor, Justin Yowell, and Micah Yowell. The diseased trees at the back of the property have been removed. The MT is developing emergency procedures in the event of a tornado warning. The appropriate city officials will be consulted to help in developing this plan.

Special Funds Management Committee (SFMC): John Rowe, Chair. The Wills and Trusts Seminar was held May 12. Local Attorneys Don Jordan and Margaret Hunt spoke to the audience about wills, trusts, powers of attorney, and health care orders. The seminar was well-received and it will be presented again in 2009.

Investment advisor John Ryan attended the SFMC meeting to discuss investment strategies for the Endowment Funds. The SFMC voted to ask Ryan to gradually increase the percentage of equity-based mutual funds over time from the current level of 20% to a new level of 30%. The allocation of equity versus debt will be re-examined in six months. Ryan reported that Endowment Fund investment values had recovered from recent declines and that they are now above December 31, 2007, balances.

A portion of the approved motion regarding the funding of a TCM case manager from Endowment Funds as requested by Mission MT follows:

The Special Funds Management Committee recommended that the Session approve funding of the Transylvania Christian Ministries case manager position as follows:

.The annual amount requested is \$5,000/year to be applied towards the full \$30,000/year cost for the position. In 2008, the amount requested will be funded from the Mission Endowment income in the amount of \$2,500 and from the General Endowment income in the amount of \$2,500. In subsequent years (2009-2010), the \$5,000/year will be funded \$3,000 from the Mission Endowment income and \$2,000 from the General Endowment income. Pledged funds will become available on July 1st of each year.

.The recommendation is to agree to fund these amounts for a period of three years (2008-2010) with consideration to be given for funding beyond that, depending on the results from the position, on the continuing need for the position, the possibility of other priorities for the uses of Endowment income beyond 2010, and on the availability of BDRPC Endowment income to allocate.

.Restrictions were included.

Presbyterian Preschool Division – Judy Caldwell, Lead Elder, Sue Yowell, Elder Member

Weekday Children’s Ministry Team: The MT met on May 13. Director Beth McLeod informed the team that a new, more detailed teacher evaluation form will be used this year. Commitments for teaching in the 2008-09 term will be requested by August 1.. After that date, positions will be considered open. Finalizing of staff will occur at the WCMT meeting on August 12. Assistant Director Sara Freeman reported on plans for the Summer Playgroup, which she will direct. There are a few openings left for children who are four or five years old. All other classes are full. Interviews have been held for summer staff, with many qualified applicants available. Summer Playgroup dates are June 17-July 31, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00-12:00. The new elder to replace Sue Yowell will be Sara Winston. Plans are progressing for maintenance work to be done during August. Three classrooms will have ceilings replaced; the infant room will have the loft removed and new flooring installed. It is anticipated that similar updating will need to be done each summer for the next several years in order to bring the preschool wing up to acceptable standards. Vacation Bible School flyers will soon be distributed to preschool children. Kristen will plan a chapel activity for the summer program. Family Fun Night, an event for preschool students, parents, and staff, will be held on May 22 from 5-7 p.m. This will be a final opportunity to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the preschool. This ministry team will not meet during June or July. The next meeting will be on August 12 at 5:00 p.m.

Mission Division Quarterly Meeting May 6th – Ginny Bradford, Lead Elder, Rod Nunnelee, Elder Member (On a quarterly basis, all of Mission’s MTs meet together.)

Peace and Justice: Judith West, Chair. P&J is working on “what is peace” and informing the congregation by doing Ministry Updates in May – Glen, Sara and grandchildren Annie and Parker Winston did a skit on peace; Julie Duval talked about healthcare issues in Transylvania County; and Larry Goodwin will talk about Living Wage.

Worldwide Ministries: Ginny Bradford, Acting Chair. Final preparations for the Guatemala Mission Trip June 24 – July 1, 2008 were discussed. The purpose of the trip is to know our partner church, Horeb, better, to be informed so that we can better understand our relationship with the students and parents, the church and the Presbytery there. Two days will be spent at the school spending time with the students that we sponsor and meeting with the Session and Partnership Committee. For these two nights, the team will be staying with families of Horeb. The team will tour a coffee finca (Santa Elena) and spend one night there. They will also visit the home of weavers, spend time with the family and see the woven goods that are for sale. The weavers raise the sheep and process the wool and weave, all on the same farm. The team has raised \$1881.18 to date. Each person going must contribute \$200 to the fund. The total plane fare that includes all fees, taxes and insurance is \$3843 for eight people. There will be one more “Coffee and More” fundraiser on June 1st. Commissioning of the team will be at both worship services on June 22. Del and Debbie Braaksma, missionaries to Sudan, will be here July 27th and Debbie will deliver the sermon at both worship services.

Local Outreach: Luck Shepherd, Chair. Edwin Jones gave an update on the progress being made with the Church Home Repair Team. He is talking to several people in Brevard

concerning community grants. The team has had their first request. They will build a ramp onto the front of the couple's home. The fundraiser, "Church Chicken for Charity" will take place on Saturday, May 24th, 10:00 – 6:00 pm during the White Squirrel Festival on the front lawn of the church. The Men's Group along with church volunteers will help prepare and serve the food. The scouts will put up tents and set up tables and chairs on the lawn. Advertisements have been distributed and a Ministry Update was given. The OCS class at Brevard High School has asked if B-DRPC would help the class with their project to make kits for mothers and children who come to the SAFE House without bringing anything with them. They are making toiletry kits and have asked for items and they will be collected May 18th and May 25th. Edwin Jones stated that Alex Jerome is earning his Eagle Scout Badge by building a playground at Mercy Seat. Rise and Shine will receive 40% of the Pentecost Offering. The team from B-DRPC for Rise and Shine will decrease from 7 members to 3 members next year and new team members are needed. This was referred to Communications MT for assistance. Faye Paden and Kristen Clanton were co-captains for Relay for Life that was held May 16 and 17. Five-Cents-a-Meal Offering through April totals \$1658.51.

The next quarterly meeting will be September 16th.

Communications:

A letter was read from a recovering alcoholic thanking B-DRPC for our willingness to open our doors in this way. An excerpt follows: "Thank you for putting your love for Jesus into real action that most churches would shy away from. Thank you for the untold number of people your ministry in this area has blessed and literally saved their lives."

Unfinished Business:

The Committee on Ministry Task Force has completed its assignment and offered a motion that was approved: That the Session adopt the recommendations of the COM Task Force regarding the establishment of a Committee On Ministry for Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church to address any issues concerning the ordained ministers in the church. The organization, purpose and initial procedures were also part of the motion.

Larry Goodwin, Chair, of the newly named Fellowship Relations Task Force (formerly Conflict Resolution Task Force) stated that the group had met on May 4th and was beginning to develop guidelines and functions for this task force. Their next meeting will be June 8th.

New Business:

It was announced that Sue Yowell has accepted a job in another state and will be moving in June. Sara Winston will fill her vacancy and will be installed on May 25th.

Pastor's Comments: Keith spoke of the joyous occasion of Charlie Steele's wedding that will take place next month.

The meeting was adjourned with a circle of prayer.

A Session Retreat was held on May 21st from noon until 5:15 pm. Tom Taylor moderated the discussion on our church's strengths and weaknesses. We began by listing our strengths and weaknesses which were many, and then pulled the top strengths and top weaknesses from these lists. We also looked at our current church Mission Statement and reviewed mission statements from other churches and listed the verbs from both that we felt were important for our church. We discussed "equipping" as it relates to Christian Education and identified that as a key area. A follow-up meeting on these same topics will continue next month.

Ginny Bradford, Elder