

St. John's United Methodist Church

Church Council

May 23, 2006

Attendance

In attendance were Council Members Liz Benton, Jay Bilyeu, Judy Bilyeu, Jim Bodie, Tom Brown, Beth Eberhard, Dennis Fish, Terry Fleming, Neil Flowers, John Geiger, Walter Guy, Tom Hallman, George Howle, Ray Hydrick, Billie Johnson, Donna Caprell Kraft, Frankie Lambright, Tom McCollum, Brenda Meeks, Jackie Meeks, Catherine Stapleton-Nance, Leigh Norton, Andy Parlantieri, Michelle Pearson, Ann Prather, Bob Prather, Allen Radcliffe, Renee Reid, Virgil Sauls, Bob Stokes, and Mary Gail Staubs. Also attending were Mary Kosky, Bob Kosky, Jerry R. Johnson, Spencer Grotheer, and Chester Reeves.

Call to order

Vice Chairperson, Virgil Sauls called the meeting to order in Ward Hall. Tom Brown gave the opening prayer. Prayer concerns were expressed for the following persons: Charlotte Holley, Martha Morgan, Employees of Avondale Mills, and the Family of Fran Newson.

Minutes

A motion was made by Bob Prather, seconded by Tom McCullom and carried that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as read.

New business

Capital Campaign Update – Senior Pastor, George Howle announced that we have no report regarding the pledges made at last Sunday's Special Event because Administrative Director, Ellen Miller, is out of town due to a death in her family. Early pledges have totaled \$1,400,000.

Strategic Planning Committee –Tom Hallman reported that Strategic Planning Committee members have sorted the suggestions given at the Cottage Meetings into areas of activity that roughly correspond to the working groups of the church. Copies of the summary of this report were given to persons present at tonight's Church Council meeting and a more detailed report was given to the chair of each church committee. Each committee is being asked to study this report, determine if change is needed, make plans accordingly and report the results of their actions to the Church Council in the Fall. Mr. Hallman stressed that this is not a scientific survey. The Strategic planning committee will continue to work with the data as they make a strategic plan for the church. George Howle has recently attended training on Natural Church Development, a method of planning that is being encouraged by the United Methodist Conference.

Committee reports

Staff Parrish Relations- Dennis Fish reported on the following activities and proposals: 1) Neil Flowers is now officially Facilities Director as well as Director of Youth Programs. 2) To be consistent with the Church Discipline, the name of the Staff Parrish Relations Committee has been changed to that of Pastor Parrish Relations Committee. 3) To assist our Senior Pastor and

provide him more time for Spiritual Activities during the time that the church will be without an Associate Pastor, the Pastor Parrish Relations committee is planning to hire a Director of Staff and Planning. This staff member would be paid less than the present Associate Pastor, and handle such tasks as staff direction, hiring of staff, and attendance at business meetings. The Pastor Parrish Relations Committee presented the following proposal for vote by the Church Council: Any funds currently in the budget to fund the Associate Pastor's position will be held until the end of the year for any possible need for additional hiring of staff. At the end of the year any left over funds will be used for debt retirement.

After much discussion, the vote was postponed until copies of the proposed job description for the Director of Staff and Planning could be made. New positions are handled by The Pastor Parrish Relations Committee without full Church Council approval. The proposal before the Council for approval was to retain in the budget the full amount budgeted for the Associate Pastor's salary until the end of year for possible additional hiring and to designate the use of any left-over funds from that budget item.

After copies of the job description were distributed, Tom McCollum called for the question. Tom Hallman affirmed the proposal of the Pastor Parrish Relations Committee. The affirmation was seconded by Jay Bilyeu and carried.

Finance — Liz Benton reported that Church receipts remain higher than expenditures.

Education-Beth Eberhard reported that the Education Committee is preparing for the "Sunday School—It's For Life!" promotion this fall. The *What Every Church Member Should Know About Poverty* seminar has been tentatively rescheduled for January 20 from 8:30-3:30. A more brief presentation on the topic will be given by Cindy DePhillips, Guidance Counselor from Aiken Elementary School, during the Sunday School hour on June 4. Tina Frazier is working on switching our elementary Sunday School classes over to the Rotational Sunday School model this fall. Volunteers are needed to help decorate the rooms and set up a computer lab. The committee has discussed the idea of the formation of an "Unday School" for adults who are not comfortable with a formal Sunday School Class. This could also be a welcome center for new members. The committee has also discussed the idea of having short-term classes on various topics. Although open to all adults, these classes will target persons who do not currently attend Sunday School regularly. Jim Heffner has agreed to coordinate these short-term classes.

Congregational Care- Terry Fleming reported the need for a formal and informal roster of shut-ins. He stressed the need for everyone in the Church to report to the Church Office the name of anyone who is sick or hospitalized.

Worship —Diane Miniard reported that upcoming worship events are listed at the bottom of the Council agenda. Added to that list is the sound system training session on June 11.

Evangelism — The committee has not met this month.

Missions- Neil Flowers reported that the Sand River Salkehatchie Camp will be housed in the Church from June 3-10. Campers will sleep in Sunday School Classrooms. The camp will also be opened to local youth who will

work on houses where no youth is living. The Area Council on Aging is using our facilities for its nutrition program while their facility is being renovated.

Stewardship- No report.

Trustees- Allen Radcliffe reported work continues on smaller maintenance items of the Church such as refinishing the gym floor and painting the windows of the Education Building. Discussion is beginning on plans for the Magnolia Street Parsonage.

Youth- Neil Flowers reported that two of our youth, Travis Pearson and Josh Colbin, are participating in the General Board of Global Missions.

United Methodist Women- Rene Reid reported that members will be attending the Women Reaching Women Seminar in Charlotte on August 5. She asked for Prayers for Apple Fest.

United Methodist Men- No report.

Endowment Committee- No report

Announcements: The following are up-coming events:

Celebration Sunday-June 4

Salkehatchie Sand River Camp-June 3-10

Farewell Sunday for Rev. Sam Marcengill-June 11

Vacation Bible School-June 12-16. Volunteers are still needed.

Next Church Council Meeting- June 27 at 7:00

George Howle's Closing Comments:


God is at work in our Church. No one person is responsible for our success. He looks forward to a seminar for Church leaders on Natural Church Development.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 27 at 7:00.

Closing

George closed the meeting with prayer.



Judy D. Bilyeu
Secretary