

# ***St. John's United Methodist Church***

## ***Church Council***

### ***February 26, 2008***

#### **Attendance**

In attendance were Council Members: Liz Benton, Linda Calhoun, Vicki Carlberg, Barry Clayton, Darby Copeland, Rosalind Crenshaw, Beth Eberhard, Linda Endler, Dennis Fish, Tommy Grier, Tom Hallman, Doris Hoffman, Jeanette Isaacson, Tom McCollum, Leigh Norton, Michael Norton, Rebecca Osteen, Virgil Sauls, Van Smith, Al Snell, Donna Walker and Mary Lou Wallace. Staff present: Gene Aiken, Michelle Brown, Nancy Fairgrieve, Mary Kosky, Nancy Reed, and Harry Sampson. Also attending: Bob Kosky and Pam McCollum.

#### **Call to order**

Chairman, Virgil Sauls, called the meeting to order. After prayer concerns and praise for Walter Cantwell receiving scholarships to Duke, Walter gave the opening prayer.

#### **Minutes**

Tom Hallman moved that minutes of the January 22, 2008 meeting be approved. Tommy Grier seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

#### **Old Business**

Gene Aiken reported that the 902 service started two weeks ago and the response has been great. The more laid-back style of this service appeals to many people. Gene is very excited about where the new service is headed.

#### **New Business**

Virgil discussed the need for a policy on fund raising events that answers the question of what is an acceptable fund raiser. An ad hoc committee (comprised of representatives from GOLT, UMYF, UMW, UMM, Evangelism and Finance) will be formed within the next two weeks to develop a proposed policy. This committee will meet with George and then the proposed policy will be brought before Church Council. The Finance Committee must accept the policy prior to its approval.

#### **Committee Reports**

**Finance** – Liz Benton reported that \$113,000 was deposited in February toward debt reduction, leaving a loan balance of \$1,133,608.31. January revenues exceeded expenses by \$96,887.86 due to several substantial pledges being paid in full for the year. Liz indicated the Finance Committee will review expenditures after the first quarter and make any 2008 budget change recommendations after this review.

**Strategic Planning** – Tom Hallman emphasized that this Saturday (March 1) will be the annual strategic planning session. All committee chairpersons, committee members and Council members at large should attend. The main focus will be on needs-base evangelism with each group developing lists of

evangelism activities that can be integrated into their programs. Also, Tom indicated that results of Saturday's session will be used to update the Church's strategic plan that emerged from last year's planning efforts. The planning session will conclude by noon.

**Trustees** – Virgil commented for Kevin Bumpus. He reiterated that the Trustees were in the process of acquiring a conceptual design for upgrades in the sanctuary.

**Pastor Parish** – Al Snell indicated three candidates have emerged for the Church organist position. He indicated that in March, PPRC and the senior minister hope to receive names for the Nurturing Associate Pastor position with the individual to report in June. Al also briefly commented that PPRC is studying future requirements, to include a Facilities Manager.

**Global Outreach Leadership Team (GOLT)** – Michael Norton gave a listing of the number of individuals that have expressed interest in various mission endeavors and working on next year's GIC. He indicated that the level of faith promise commitments was presently about \$231,000 with \$15,000+/- actually received. For planning purposes, GOLT is estimating that 75% of faith promise commitments will be received. Michael went over present plans for Jerusalem, Judea and Ends of the Earth missionary activities.

**Stewardship** – No report.

**Education** – Beth Eberhard reported that Tom Brown has put together a brochure about our adult Sunday School classes. This is being made available for those attending the 902 service and will be included in new member packets and in other locations so people can easily review Sunday School options.

**Congregational Care** – No report.

**Evangelism** – Tom Hallman for Jim Holly indicated the importance of evangelism planning at Saturday's Church planning session.

**Family Life** – No report.

**Endowment** – No report.

**Youth** – Rebecca Osteen reported that the ski trip was great. The Salkehatchie Day in Gloverville during GIC went very well and the youth will go back March 8 to finish up the work. Rebecca indicated that the New Orleans trip during spring break is open to everyone, not just the youth. Sign up forms are to be turned in by this Sunday.

**UMW** – Mary Lou Wallace announced that UMW now has a full slate of officers and the executive council is meeting each month. Work is being done on an information booklet, a general UMW meeting will be held in April and they are looking for Applefest chairpersons. Mary Lou indicated that UMW will be a healthy organization by the end of the year.

**UMM** – Bob Kosky reported for Steve Lathrop on fund raising efforts. He mentioned returns from Antiques in the Heart and ongoing, income-generating work with Aiken Center for the Arts. A USCA Political Science professor will present the program at UMM's meeting this Thursday.

Virgil emphasized the communication function of the Church Council and announced the next meeting will be March 25. It was announced that George is attending a conference at Callaway Gardens this week. Virgil then closed the meeting with prayer.

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**Thomas N. McCollum,  
Recording Secretary**