

First United Methodist Church, Dallas

Church Council Meeting

February 9, 2010

6:30 p.m.

Urban Life Center

Clergy Present

Dr. John Fiedler
Rev. Jay Cole
Rev. Tom Downing
Rev. Dale Hunt
Rev. Linda Roby

Staff Present

Sherrye Bass
Rachel Cabal
Gretchen Combs
Quenetta Cox
Elise Daniel
Rocky Dwyer
Dana Effler
Jamie Owens
Burton Shepard

Council Members Present

Pete Bricker, Chair
Beverly Godbey, Vice-Chair
Jan Agey
Rick Button
Michael Campbell
Elizabeth Cummins
Alexis Fletcher
Nathan Ivey
Sara Ivey
Jim Mabile
Sam Mallick
Laura McCavitt
Todd McCavitt

Randal McClesky
Kurt McClinchie
Kelvin Meyers
Nathan Nichols
Brian Owens
Blake Pond
Clay Roby
Gable Roby
Pat Rodgers
Rodney Ward
Betty Watson
Paul Watson

MINUTES

Mr. Bricker convened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed new members to the Council. Dr. Fiedler gave the invocation.

To orient new members and to refresh the recollections of returning members, Dr. Fiedler presented a brief background and history of the Church Council. The Church Council is a combination of the former Administrative Board and the Council on Ministries. It serves FUMC by representing the Church in various areas of ministry and providing reports to peers, as well as votes on issues impacting the Church. Dr. Fiedler thanked the clergy, staff and laity for their important work on the Church Council.

In his Finance Committee report, Todd McCavitt described the Committee's emphasis in 2010 on bringing in pledge dollars and donations throughout the year, not just at year end. Although the total number of pledges decreased slightly for 2010, the number of congregants paying monthly pledges by automatic draft and credit card transactions significantly increased, enabling the church to improve monthly cash flows for the 2010 budget of \$3,185,137.00.

Nathan Ivey reported for the Board of Trustees that the Trustees completed a successful year in 2009, opening the Urban Life Center and upgrading various areas of the main church campus. For 2010, the Trustees contemplate further improvements to the 1925 building, the installation of exterior security cameras, renovation of the second floor Bride's Room and additional routine maintenance and painting. The Trustees also plan to maximize investment opportunities for the Goodrich Fund and evaluate the Master Plan with an eye toward a future capital campaign as the economy improves.

Michael Campbell, Chair of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, introduced new staff member Jamie Owens and advised the Council that the clergy and staff currently are stable, productive and happy. On another high note, FUMC recently received a grant from the Lilly Foundation to fund an internship for a clergy member who wants to serve a large urban church. This grant will enable the intern to serve FUMC for 3-4 years.

In addition to the depth and breadth of current mission opportunities, Clay Roby reported for the Missions Team that 2010 will bring several new initiatives, including an international mission trip to Costa Rica, where 22 church members will build schools and an orphanage. The Missions Team also will work to train an Emergency Response Team who can partner with UMCOR to facilitate immediate aid to the needy around the world. In addition, the Missions Team plans to explore a variety of ideas centered on creating a "grants" process for funding missions, to help equalize the money and resources available for FUMC's myriad mission projects.

On behalf of Crossroads Community Services, Brian Owens updated the Council on CCS's impressive statistics for 2009 and outlined CCS's goals for 2010, which include increasing the number of clients served, distributing more food, establishing more satellite distribution locations and continuing to seek collaboration with other agencies like the successful effort with Central Dallas Ministries.

According to Rick Button, the Media Ministry continues to thrive and grow in its new relationship with WFAA to broadcast Sunday Worship live and again on tape delay. In addition, FUMC enjoys new media opportunities through YouTube, podcasts of sermons, and streaming worship services and events available on the Church website. Media also continues to tape services and events for members and prepare archive copies. Media recently has received a generous donation to begin the transition to HD. All of this new technology, growth and money has prompted the Media department to reorganize its members into three subcommittees, who plan to train two new editors and recruit ten new volunteers in 2010, as one of several important goals.

Dr. Fiedler closed the Church Council meeting with highlights of his goals and global strategies for 2010, including increasing Church membership, expanding participation in Church ministries, optimizing new media opportunities, completing a successful financial year and developing new Bible Studies, core curriculum and programs to address the spiritual needs of FUMC's diverse congregation. Dr. Fiedler praised the Church Council for participating in classic Methodist methodology to move and mobilize the congregation to share in the joy of ministry and to show others that God is at work today. Dr. Fiedler reiterated that God will bless us in our ministries with help from the Holy Spirit.

After Dr. Fiedler's uplifting benediction, Pete Bricker adjourned the meeting at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Beverly B. Godbey
Vice-Chair



Dr. John F. Fiedler
Senior Minister