

**St Matthew United Methodist Church
Administrative Board Meeting
October 28, 2007**

MINUTES

Members and Guests present:

Tom Miller	Necia Miller	Virgil Todd
Bruce Brotherton	Jim Heath	Jocile Heath
Jackie Elk	LaDonna Hunt	Gene Hunt
Joyce Perkins	Joe Perkins	Bob Dimski
David Hughes	Marilyn Soloman	Ernie Beaver
David Heath	Polly Dobbs	Enna Mae Wilbur
Paul Specht	Carolyn Specht	Brett Ruston
Gayle Tatum	Carl Tatum	Stacey Ruston
Don Wedemyer		

The meeting was called to order by Tom Miller, Chairman at 6:00 p.m. Rev. Brotherton opened the meeting with a prayer.

Review of Minutes

The minutes of the July 15, 2007 board meeting were unanimously approved as submitted. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Bob Dimski and seconded by Joe Perkins.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Chairman Bob Dimski reported "good news and bad news". The good news was that We are on track to pay our current year apportionments in full by mid December. The bad news was that a \$20,000 shortfall exists between the 2008 budget and projected giving for 2008. The stewardship campaign just completed resulted in 28 fewer pledges than last year and the total amount pledged was about \$24,000 less than last year.

To cover the shortfall, the Finance Committee is recommending that we refinance the debt on the sanctuary by paying off the church bonds with a bank loan which will carry a lower interest rate than the bonds. Chase Bank will provide a 15-year loan with a fixed rate of 7½% or less. Such refinancing will result in savings of approximately \$24,000 per year. To obtain the required approval to proceed with this course of action, a Called Charge Conference with the District Superintendent will be convened at the church on Wednesday, November 7. After obtaining approval and the loan, the Finance Committee will be able to complete the 2008 budget. The budget will be presented to the Administrative Board for approval immediately before the annual Charge Conference on November 18.

Gayle Tatum suggested that, upon obtaining approval to call the bonds, it might be appropriate to give a courtesy notification to church members who are bond holders. Bob Dimski said he would inquire to see if a list of bondholders could be obtained for this purpose.

Fund raising for the multimedia project is complete and the necessary funds (pledged specifically for this purpose) are available. Bruce Brotherton will notify the equipment provider to proceed with installation.

Trustees

Chairman David Heath presented a report which included the following completed and in-progress items:

Completed items included the front lawn drainage project, Wesley Hall entrance repair work, multimedia project fund raising, Fellowship Hall walls repainted (donated supplies and volunteer labor), church cleanup day on September 22, new enhanced keypad entry (southwest entry), and new washer, dryer and dishwasher installed in the parsonage. In-progress items included repair of roof leaks and new security system. The security system project was tabled pending funds availability.

Staff/Parish Relations Committee.

Joe Perkins, reporting for Chairman Jerry Williams, advised the board that salary recommendations for 2008 were submitted to the Finance Committee. Also, a new staff position, "Children's Coordinator" was recommended to the board for approval. The salary for this position, \$4,500 per year, will not result in an increase in total salaries, because our pastor has volunteered to reduce his salary by this amount. The new position was unanimously approved for \$4,500 per year. The board thanks Reverend Brotherton for his generosity in this matter.

Lay Leadership Development Committee and Lay Leader

Committee chair Bruce Brotherton reported that the committee had been working diligently on a nomination list for leaders and committee members for 2008. The recommendations will be presented for approval at the November 18 Charge Conference.

The committee recommended to the board that the Invitation and Welcome Team be split into two separate teams. The Welcome Team will continue to be chaired by Kay Rhodes, and LaDonna Hunt was recommended to chair the Invitation Team. The committee also recommended Gene Hunt to fill the vacant chair of Adult Education. Both recommendations were approved unanimously after a motion to approve by Marilyn Solomon and a second by Joyce Perkins.

Lay Leader Virgil Todd provided highlights from a report of Mission and Outreach activities. The report is attached to the file copy of these minutes. Highlights:

Local Missions has been promoting the Mid-Del Food Pantry on first Sundays-the response has been less than hoped for.

Boy and Girl Scouts participated visibly at the festival with sales of ice cream and cobbler.

Skyline continues to provide clothing to the McKee Center and household items to Exodus House. Items were also provided to support the Back-to-School project.

Mobile Meals is "going strong", but could use more drivers.

Prison ministry activities could use additional volunteers. The main need now is for hygiene items for Mable Bassett.

December is the month for the Mitten Tree and consideration is being given to providing teddy bears for the police department to distribute.

Other Business

LaDonna Hunt reported on a project she has initiated to make visitors and new members feel welcome and comfortable at our church. Two meetings have been attended by a group of our members who have indicated an interest and a number of good suggestions have been made. On November 18, training will be provided for “greeters” In addition, the group will be exploring ways to get our children and youth involved in welcome and hospitality activities. Further meetings will be held.

Gene Hunt provided board members with a handout which enumerated “Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations” from a book by Bishop Robert Schnase. The five practices are:

- Radical Hospitality
- Passionate Worship
- Intentional Faith Development
- Risk-Taking Mission and Service
- Extravagant Generosity

After Reverend Brotherton’s closing prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00.