

First United Methodist Church of Alabaster

Administrative Council Minutes

November 9, 2010

In Attendance

Danny and Sarah Thomas, Pete Peterson, Ray Sapp, Karen Pirkle, Mark Washburn, Nick and Mary Posey, Rick Mims, Carol Harrison, Steve Walker, Jennifer Strickland, Jack Mosley, Stephen Benefield, David Jenkins, Brian Erikson, Maureen Sheffield.

Opening

Danny Thomas welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes from October were distributed and approved by e-mail prior to tonight's meeting.

Pastors Time

Pastor Brian Erikson shared the following:

- We are still counting the stewardship pledges and are very encouraged by the numbers that have come in. To give you a sense of the numbers, last year the first Sunday we had turned in around \$460,000 in pledges and this year we had \$522,000 turned in the first Sunday. We are now up to almost \$660,000 at this time. All we got total last year after about 2 months of collecting pledges was around \$720,000. The finance committee did a very good job of being as conservative as possible and responsible in thinking through next year so all of our figures we have got for next years budget have been assuming the same giving we have gotten this year. Therefore, not knowing what the economy is going to do we don't feel we have put any undue pressure on the congregation.
- We are also pursuing tax except status. In the state of Alabama we are one of the few states in which we are not sales tax except. There are some ways we can legally apply for sales tax exception which over the course of a year, especially this year with all the building cost should be a huge savings for the church. Several churches in our area have done this and it has done well. The way this is done is by creating a United appeal Fund which is basically a nonprofit umbrella organization with leadership of the church. We have already moved forward on the process of doing this however we would like to have an Administrative Council vote prior to finalizing any of the plans. A motion is made by Pete Peterson to move forward on the tax except status there is a second followed by a unanimous vote of approval. The organization will be called the Alabaster United Appeal fund, we will have one fund raiser each year where we will raise money for the united appeal fund and then we will give the money away to a charity of our choosing. We are hoping it will make a dramatic impact on our overall budget. The prediction from the attorneys is that they should be able to have us tax exempt in about 2 weeks. This will include all purchases. It cost us about \$12,500 initial setup for legal fees, there will be a

minimum filing fee that we could actually do ourselves every year to keep the status. It is a one time fee for the attorney to set up the organization. It should therefore pay for itself in one year and then every year after that it will be just that much more money we can use towards ministry.

- We have also decided to do a third Christmas Eve service this year. This year we are going to do a 3:30pm very informal, family oriented service with Bluegrass music plus the 5:30pm and 7:30pm services as done last year. In an effort to try and be a little more aggressive about welcoming the community in to the church we have ordered 100 yard signs which will display the name of the church and the times of the services for 100 families to display in their front yards.

Reachout/Extend

Pastor Stephen Benefield shared the following:

- This is the month that we sponsor Manna Charities. It is the third year we have sponsored Manna for the month of November. We had budgeted \$3200 dollars to give to them this month to help them pay there expenses which we have already done. We also have a minimum of 10 volunteers going in each Saturday this month to help with the normal weekly duties. In addition we have have taken on a special project each week on Saturdays such as this Saturday when we will be cleaning all the doors, windows and trimming around the building.
- Thanksgiving meals will be done on November 20th. That Saturday we will be in 2 places at once, we will have people at Manna in the morning and then we will have people at the church preparing food and boxing it up. That afternoon Cindy Hawkins from Kids First is going to be taking us on a tour of communities in Alabaster in need of a hot meal and fellowship.
- Angel Tree will be in the sanctuary this year to the left of the sanctuary. Ruth Greer is in charge of the Angel Tree again this year and is doing a great job. The proceeds from the Angel Tree will go to help Operation Helping Hand Ministry as it has in the past. Ruth is also working with Ellie Walker on making the Angel food boxes a part of the Angel tree again this year as it was successful last year.
- The Extend team is now up to about 20-22 members. Ideally we are going to have different people on the committee working on specific areas and having them be able to take ownership of these areas. We are going to be looking at mission trips in the very near future. We will do some short term local trips as well as some more extended trips farther away. We are also looking to expand out involvement with the Alabaster community and instead of just assuming we know where we should be actually trying to ask members of the community about their needs.
- Also, November 21st at 4pm will be the first annual Hanging of the Greens Service at the church. This will be very informal but we will be singing Christmas hymns and decorating the sanctuary for Christmas.

Family Committe

Danny Thomas shared the following:

- The Children's Christmas program is December 5th and the family committee will be serving ice cream and cookies after the service.
- The Christmas Cantata is December 19th and the Family committee will be serving soup and sandwiches afterwards. They are looking at possibly Firehouse or Subway sandwiches.
- The family committee is providing a snack supper on the 21st for AWANA.
- The family committee is also already looking at next years calendar and are planning to bring back a lot of the popular events from years past such as the Valentines Banquet, The Burger and Dog Talent show, The Soup Kitchen theater and Bingo night.

Worship and Youth

Jack Mosley shared the following:

- The Christmas Cantata is on December 19th. The choir is working on this and things are going well.
- The youth small groups are also going well.
- The Friday night fellowships are now meeting every other week. They meet over at the Point from 7-10:30pm. Last Friday night there were around 20 youth in attendance including some new faces to our youth department. We are working on creating some things that will be going on on Friday nights that will be appealing to the community and help bring in some new youths.
- The youth have a Habitat for Humanity workday planned for December 11th working hand in hand with the Extend group.
- The annual Auburn/Alabama penny drop is also underway. This year the proceeds from the penny drop will go towards helping with the Habitat for Humanity house. The Habitat for Humanity group has asked the youth to lay sod again this year as they did last year.
- The youth are also now selling poinsettias for the year.
- The Drama team is also going well. They meet on Wednesday nights. There were 20 youth there last Wednesday night which is about the average number for this activity. The youth are writing some of their own sketches, doing some improv and doing some learning from a DVD which helps you learn drama from the ground up.

Children's Ministry

Karen Pirkle shared the following:

- Since the last meeting the children have had the Fall Festival a couple of weeks ago which went well.
- The shoe boxes were done last week and there were about 30 shoe boxes to be delivered.
- Santa pictures were done on Saturday for 2 hours and there was a good turn out for this. Thank you to Santa Steve and his family for doing this for the children.
- The musical for the kids will be Sunday December 5th and the family committee will be doing dessert afterwards.

- The weekend following the musical we are planning to go and do caroling in the nursing home instead of doing regular AWANA.

SPRC

Mark Washburn shared the following:

- The SPRC is starting to wind down for the year. This last month they finished up staff evaluations. Phase one of the evaluations was getting them filled out, phase two was getting the staff to agree to them and phase three has been presenting those to the staff and talking through them. These are to be turned back in by this Sunday so that they can begin talking about the remainder of compensation. This has already been done with the senior pastor and the two associate pastors and now it is to be done with the rest of the staff.
- In 2011 the SPRC is working at getting the staff goals finalized so that the staff has something to look at and move on.
- The SPRC is also looking at completing job descriptions and begin to fill out some of the positions that are going to be needed for this facility and the new facility going into the spring.
- Please remember to direct any complaints about the staff towards Mark Washburn. Praises or compliments can be directed at any SPRC member.
- The SPRC is still in discussion on whether or not to hire church family to the staff. No decision has yet been reached.
- The job posting for the lead choir director is to be addressed soon. The SPRC is working at this time on finalizing a job description prior to posting the position.

Finance Committee

Jennifer Strickland discussed the following:

- The preliminary budget for 2011 has been essentially been finalized pending how our finances end up for the year. At the end of the year things will be reevaluated and finalized in January.
- The budget is based on the best prediction that could be made of what tithes and offerings would be for 2011. The best analysis of this is too look at the final giving from the end of this year to use as an estimate. Based on that amount predicted for tithes and offerings, Resolve Campaign and the rental income we were overall \$129,000 short, however we are going to be moving money from the growth and development fund. We will move \$100,000 from the growth and development fund to reduce the deficit. This means that the deficit is only about \$29,000. The finance committee is feeling comfortable with this number based on expected growth of the church with the new building.
- This last weekend we got an additional \$22,000 into the building fund and \$26,000 into tithes and offerings.

Trustees

Pete Peterson discussed to following:

- There is a crack that has developed in the floor beginning at Karen Pirkle's office and extending to this end of the educational building. Several years ago there was a tree outside the building which had to be cut down as it was sucking water from the foundation and cracking the wall of the old education building. It is felt that the current crack is a similar situation. The floor is actually separating and some filler has been placed in the crack, however this is not going to fix the problem. David Jenkins has contacted a foundation specialist and the Trustees are going to meet with an engineer this Friday to see what the problem will cost to fix. The preliminary estimate is somewhere around \$30-\$40,000 dollars to repair the foundation. There is no question that the foundation must be fixed to keep it from getting much worse, and will likely need to be done as soon as possible.

New Business

Pete Peterson reported the following regarding Restore:

- Two weeks ago the city approved the rezoning for the sign. Therefore the electronic message center is on order and should be in in about six weeks.
- The demolition on the new building is completed as of the beginning of November and they have started the construction on it this week. They are beginning to draw out some of the floor plans and the plumber has been out to look at some of the drainage lines.
- The Restore committee is asking that the congregation not go over to the new building during the construction process for 2 reasons. One is a safety issue and the second reason is so that we don't give the general a contractor an excuse not to stay on schedule with the construction.
- The interior committee is meeting as well to work on selecting chairs for the sanctuary, and the pastoral chairs. There are 4 companies coming to the meeting to present their merchandise. We also need to address the children's area at sometime in the future.
- There will be an open house in Restore on Sunday December 5th in order for people to see the progress of the construction. Hopefully by that time people will be able to get a good idea of what the layout of the floor will be.

Other New Business

- Ray Sapp advised us that the Mens Breakfast will be the third Sunday.
- Mary Posey shared that the UMW Bazaar will be November 13th starting at 8am. December 5th they are also doing a Christmas Bake sale.

Post-Meeting Business

- On 11/16/2010, Pastor Brian requested that Danny Thomas conduct an Administrative Council "meeting" via email to present a motion authorizing Pete Peterson to sign closing documents relative to the renovation loan from BB&T for the Alabaster Market Center. The motion passed 15 "yea" to zero "nay" as of 11/21/2010.

Joys and Concerns

Joys and concerns were expressed by everyone in attendance, and we were led in prayer by

Carole Harrison and then the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting Minutes Prepared by Sarah Thomas



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