

**Church Council Meeting Minutes**  
Messiah United Methodist Church  
August 27, 2018

**Opening**

- Chair Brenda Weston called the meeting to order at 6:59.
- Also attending were: Vice Chair Brian Elliff, John Ailes, Lee Thompson Berson, Paul and Sherry Bouley, Tracey Briggs, Ann Clymer, Diane and Lee Halvorsen, Jo-Ann Scichilone, Peggy Tugwell, Richard Underwood, Kathy Willson and Maurice Wilson; and staff Pia Diggs, Jessica Irish, Robin Ringler and Reggie Tuck.
- Kathy Willson led the devotional from a book she found in the Messiah library from the 1950s about lanterns lighting the church.
- Brenda Weston asked everyone to stand over a space and pray over the space.
- Minutes from July's meeting were accepted as submitted by acclaim.

**Vision and Planning**

- Brenda Weston summarized previous church council discussion: We have not come up with a vision but have agreed on a unifying focus -- growth by targeting young families and discipleship by targeting children and adults. Given that we have decided to leave the worship service times as they are, we will build on Wednesday night dinner. The Simple Church committee is working on that. The building committee is looking at plans to update the church while keeping with the existing footprint.
- Brian Elliff led a discussion about diversity and the positive and negative aspects. Is our focus on outward-looking mission work or more inward looking – making the church more diverse? It's a complex issue that different people are addressing in multiple ways.
  - There was some concern that we are too focused on culture rather than bringing people in and treating them the same way. Everyone is valued. Everyone should be treated equally, during worship and across the board. We all need to be responsible for disciplining kids.
  - There's concern about the youth. While the youth programs are a traditional strength, the numbers are down, the middle and high school teens could be integrated better, and there are kids who are having trouble blending in. What can we do to make sure everyone is included?
  - Although we are not focusing on the aging population, we have to take care of older members and maintain their involvement.
  - How do we not do things the same way we did 50 years ago? How do we energize what we do best? What do we do really well here? How do we put thoughts into action?
  - We have lost touch with the idea that we are an intergenerational family and should think about building a family.
- The Simple Church Group came up with a list of all the church activities and has pared down the list to the ones we will emphasize to focus on building through young families and youth. The building committee will make a presentation next month.

**Wednesday Night Live**

- Wednesday Night Live is the new title of the Wednesday night dinners, which we'll build up by moving a lot of the music and other activities to Wednesday to make it easy for people to be

involved in the church. Adults can have activities or just chill out, and we can offer Bible studies, have speakers and other activities and also just let people build relationships.

- There was some concern that the September 12 launch is 16 days away and we haven't really gotten the message out or have all of the needed volunteers. Do we start slow with a soft launch or go big right out of the gate? Discussion of the messaging included the possibility of using more creative ways to promote it – skits during the church service or shooting a video that can be shared on social media and posted on the website. We'd need to take a video during the soft launch.
- There was also discussion of whether we should move the business meetings away from Wednesday night so those people can attend the other activities.
- The need for volunteers and how best to get them was discussed. One suggestion was to ask for volunteers for a specific task and ask for a quarterly commitment. Diane Halvorsen volunteered to help with coordinating volunteers.

### **Won't You Be My Neighbor?**

This year's fall luncheon will be catered by Red Hot & Blue and is titled Won't You Be My Neighbor after the Fred Rogers documentary. Cards were distributed at Sunday services for people to give to their neighbors to invite them. We need people to serve food.

### **Hearts and Hands Bazaar**

- Reggie Tuck met with Loye Eschenburg, who said no one stepped up to co-direct the bazaar this year, the Curmudgeons are not going to sell the hot dogs and chili this year, and in general the bazaar is taking a toll on the organizers, which is not how we want to treat our congregation. Reggie will send an email to the congregation saying the bazaar will not be held in October and asking for ideas going forward.
- The bazaar has morphed into more of a yard sale but has remained a reliable fundraiser for missions. Sherry Bouley is adapting an idea to make up the gap with a Messiah Missions Matter 200 envelope campaign. We are having 200 envelopes printed – one for each dollar amount between \$1 to \$200. We'll ask the congregation to take an envelope and donate the amount on the envelope they take. If every envelope is taken and paid, that's \$20,000.

### **Committee Reports**

- Trustees: Nothing in addition to written report.
- Building Committee: Will make presentation in September.
- Finance: Nothing in addition to written report.

### **Pastor's Report**

Reggie met with the district superintendent to talk through the dynamic of what's happening at Messiah. He said that we need to keep working on a vision statement and that Serving God by Serving Others has had its day. He thinks it's obvious that the vision statement should address diversity.

Brenda closed the meeting with a prayer and adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracey Briggs