

Church and Society  
Meeting Minutes  
September 10, 2006

Present: Doug Farling, Kendall Lancaster, Dave Lienert, Elinor Rowan, Becky Schultz

Becky reported that Penny continues to suffer from a long-lasting sinus infection and was not able to attend this morning's meeting. Kendall asked all of us to keep Penny in our prayers.

Kendall provided information on several publications and programs that are available for any member to read and get involved in if interested:

- program that recycles ink jet cartridges
- Ohio Christian News
- Ohio Council Churches

Information collected since our last meeting was discussed:

**Lend-A-Hand:** Penny contacted this organization and they are anxious to have our support. Penny will maintain contact with them to identify a single item for each month that our church could collect and deliver (i.e. paper towels, dish washing liquid, etc.).

**Cleveland Food Bank (CFB)** – Doug would like see us schedule a half day project in January or February to help sort food. Doug says there are always lots of offers for support during the holiday season, but support drops off after the first of the year. Doug will get additional info from CFB.

**Crop Walk:** Mary and Craig Kotnik were BUMC representatives at the community Crop Walk meeting in May. It was decided that coordination of this effort will not be owned by this committee, but that we would support the effort in whatever way is needed. Becky will contact Mary and Craig to ask how we can support them. Note: Becky spoke with Mary Sunday night. The CROP Walk is Sunday, October 1. Mary is submitting a Good Word article and putting inserts in the Sunday bulletins. She will also ask Pastor Karen to make an announcement in both services that there will be tables in the lobby for folks to sign up to make pledges to walkers or to register as walkers themselves. Mary would appreciate help from our committee to help work at the sign-up table on Sunday mornings. Since this event happens before our next committee meeting, committee members willing to help should contact Mary directly. See [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org) for more info.

**Brookside Center** - (Archwood and West 25<sup>th</sup>): Elinor reported that Brookside Center is part of the West Side Ecumenical Ministry. They have a resale shop and provide tutoring for a GED and computer skills. Publicity we provide for this organization will name Elinor as the contact should anyone be interested in helping out.

**‘Coffee in the Parlor’ discussions:** Several members suggested a more casual format for discussing topics in society that parishioners may be interested in. This committee recognizes the hectic schedules people have. As an alternative to scheduling more formal presentations as we have in the past, everyone agreed that offering a regular monthly, more informal gathering might be more appealing and easier to attend for many people. Topics could be anything that anyone on this committee is passionate about.

A suggested time for this meeting was Monday evenings from 6-7 pm. This earlier time slot in the evening was meant to accommodate those members who may have other church committee meetings who already meet on Monday nights at 7:30 pm.

Kendall and Dave suggested collecting newspaper and magazine articles, as well as information from the Internet, and providing this information to share before the meeting. Encouraging all who attend to share their thoughts would allow an exchange of ideas rather than having a speaker do all the talking or having one person speak who may have a strong position or preference on the topic.

Topics suggested:

- Stem Cell research
- Oil Dependency/Alternatives
- Illegal Immigrants (idea from last meeting)
- Global Warming (Elinor has had 2 parishioners ask us to give attention to this topic)
- Increase in minimum wage

**Communication to the congregation:** The committee identified how best to let the church members know about this committee’s activities and/or speaker series. We will communicate our efforts three different ways:

- 1 – Printed copies of information or meeting notices available in church lobby
- 2 – Articles in the Good Word
- 3 – Web links to other websites from the BUMC website (i.e. link to Baldwin Wallace or Case Western Reserve Universities).

Penny has suggested that this committee could submit a regular segment to the Good Word with a catchy headline that could include a list of all the various speaker series, community events and activities that address a variety of issues in society. Penny will suggest a headline and get approval from Pastor Karen.

Elinor and Becky will provide information to Penny to edit and submit for the next edition of the Good Word. Elinor will provide information on the Brookside Center needs. Becky will provide info on the Cleveland Council on World Affairs speaker series. (The next deadline for the Good Word is Tuesday, September 12).

Dave will talk with Don Krolkowski to see if there are any rules for linking to other sites. If there are no restrictions, Dave will provide link info for Baldwin Wallace and Case speaker series links.

Kendall has not been able to contact Bruce McCrodden yet but will follow up with Bruce to see what suggestions Bruce may have for a speaker on the topic of the US dependency on oil and alternatives to oil.

The next meeting will be Sunday, October 8, between services (to begin as soon as the first service is over). Dave recommended we, as a committee, communicate with each other via email to share information with each other in the time between meetings. Everyone agreed this was a good idea to keep efforts and ideas moving along in a timely fashion.