

Church and Society
Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2006

Present: Penny Burns, Mark Hobzek, Kendall Lancaster, Dave Lienert, Elinor Rowan, Becky Schultz, Harry Wilson

Kendall shared that the following is available for each Church and Society member to review:

- Church & Society Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation (booklet) - all members present already had this
- Methodist Book of Discipline (including section on social principles)
- Ohio Christian News (newsletter from Ohio Council of Churches)

Volunteering Opportunities:

Cleveland Food Bank (CFB): Doug will get information to include in the Good Word for volunteering in the January/February timeframe.

Brookside Center (BC): Elinor noted that the UMW is collecting canned goods in their December meeting.

Business Volunteers Unlimited (BVU): Dave explained this is a referral group for individuals or groups who wish to volunteer but don't know where to start. BVU is funded by United Way. The list of volunteer opportunities is constantly changing. Website is <http://www.businessvolunteers.org/>

Dave suggested we start a group and invite anyone interested in volunteering to join us to get more info and to learn about volunteer opportunities. Those present felt that many folks may have already made their volunteer commitments for this Christmas season. It was decided that we would start this effort in January. We will mention it in our December 4 'Coffee in the Parlor'.

December 4, 2006 'Coffee in the Parlor' discussion on Illegal Immigration:

Harry will prepare a paper with information on the topic of Illegal Immigration. Included in that paper will be several questions to get the discussion started. This paper will be made available the Sunday before the meeting as well as the evening of the Parlor discussion.

We will provide coffee and several members will bake.

Since we've missed the deadline for the Good Word, Penny will promote this in the regular Sunday bulletins leading up to December 4.

Future Coffee in the Parlor topics:

Additional ideas suggested for future Parlor discussions were:

- organ donation
- what age do we stop driving?
- stem cell research
- teaching children sexual behavior

Recycling:

Penny noted that BUMC does not recycle. At one time, the church had recycled but for unknown reasons, the effort has been abandoned. A suggestion was made to have 2 collection areas (one in the kitchen and one somewhere on the 2nd floor). We also thought that Betsy Wooster could ask the Sunday School teachers to have their children bring recyclables down to the second floor. Becky will talk with Pastor Karen to discuss how to renew this effort.

Misc.

Penny will continue to submit additional information to the Good Word to be included on our 'News to be Used' page.

The next meeting will be Sunday, December 31. Our assumption was that there will only be one service on this Sunday. We will have a short meeting after the service to review last minute details for the January 8 'Coffee in the Parlor' talk.