

Council on Ministries, February 2, 2009

Present: Janet Kleckner, Jenny Gee, Donna Sibits, Catherine Vastartis, Don Krolkowski, Lisa Drew, Karen Oehl, Jim McBride, Betsy Wooster, Joy Fenton.

Minutes from December were read and approved.

Old Business

Thank you for help on the 2008 spending.. The 2009 budget approved by the Administrative Board in January is balanced, representing many difficult decisions and challenges ahead.

Reminder: the April Administrative Board meeting will be a review of our status with the Strategic Plan. Review the action steps (hand out) and spend time with your committee on review before the April meeting.

Leadership Academy this Saturday at Lakewood UMC. Still room to attend.

New Business

Looking at the function of the Council on Ministries:

- A communications venue. We inform each other of what is going on. We're not a secret club—we should freely share as much information as we have, and take it back to our committees.
- Planning and vision casting. This group carries on, for example, the work of the Strategic Plan and continuously reflects on whether we are fulfilling our mission statement.
- Leadership support. Support venue and best practices sharing for leaders of the church.

Related discussion on leadership and chairing committees. Should we ask or aim for chairs to serve for at least 2 years? This could facilitate the work we do together as a council. Could also follow model of Trustees: first year vice chair, year as a chair, year as emeritus. Then you get some consistency. Other community groups, like PSO, already have 2-year terms for chairs. Remember that there are also some other models to help leaders such as co-chairs, like Missions is doing this year, or a chair who does not attend COM meetings, like Education.

New ideas are brought in by new chairs, but need to balance that with the time to accomplish some things while in the position. Jim and Jenny pointed out that chairs themselves might not be aware of their term or duties. We need to work on more orientation and training. Don Krolkowski suggested that information about committee work could be stored in shared space on the web site, instead of collected in notebooks and folders. Someday committees could refer to such in meetings (wireless).

The agreement was that the Lay Leadership Committee should work towards two-year terms for chairpersons.

The reference to the web site brought up ongoing discussion of bringing ourselves forward in communications. We are still hoping for wireless capabilities at least in some locations in the building.

The newsletter needs to be made available in an electronic form for many reasons: some families will be more likely to check a web page than read through a paper copy; reduce paper use to be more green; perhaps some reduced costs in time and money.

Karen will work with Irma on this. Expect to see some kind of notice next month. The format of an electronic newsletter or e-news will still be worked out.

Challenge to all chairs for next month: update your information on the web site or contact Don to post information from your committee.

Reports

Koinonia: New member potluck went well. May plan another potluck for fellowship in April or May. Maybe a potluck Karaoke night!

Missions: Held back on spending in 2008 for budget reasons. At end of year were busy deciding on projects to support. They are looking to support more local projects and have a variety. Some money went to Simpson UMC, where we helped with the toy sale, for camperships. Two groups have gone to the Foodbank and had a good time. On February 15 we will help with the community meal at Brooklyn Memorial with Ridge UCC. Later we will be in charge of one of the meals. These opportunities have attracted a variety of ages and families. (Some age restrictions)

Communications: Don has been working on posters for groups, ads, posting to the web site, audio recording of worship pieces. Recently started to work on adding video camera to first service to show us children or special events.

Church and Society: Continuing program of Cleveland Clinic Speakers. October was integrated medicine. February 23 will be a vision program. Possible sports medicine speaker in the spring.

Education: No meeting in December. This month they are starting to work on the Palm Sunday Passion Drama. Are looking at the possibility of purchasing new Bible for the Young Disciples (Middle School) program. Jump Start is the chosen Sunday School mission project for this year. Education continues to help with the creation of fire evacuation procedures.

Evangelism: the committee continues to work on visitors and member care. There will be a reception for Al Williams' 100th birthday after second service on March 22. Church

members are also invited to a reception for him at Laurel Lake on Saturday March 21. The tea at Chippewa Place went very well. It continues to be a popular event.

Music Board: The chairs have arrived and are in place in the chancel. Music in the Valley was a great success. Upcoming events are a concert on March 8 by the couple who played guitar on the train and a Messiah sing on April 19.

Betsy Wooster: March 1 is Children's Worship. Lenten studies will begin the week of March 1. Adult education classes are in the process of being decided on for spring. Passion Drama on April 5 is a big item of preparation. Please take a look at the Seedlings bulletin, a special bulletin for young readers to help them follow and understand worship.

Karen Oehl: Confirmation classes begin March 1, 6:30-8:30 for six weeks. Confirmation is on April 26.

Lisa Drew: Music with a Mission is February 20. Snow tubing February 22. CAPA (Chemical Abuse Prevention) is bringing in several speakers. Our church will be a host site for one event in March or April.

Next meeting: March 2, 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Oehl