

**Council on Ministries, Brecksville United Methodist Church
August 10, 2009**

In attendance: Don Krolkowski, Jane Petrie, Donna Sibits, Amy Hazelton, Joy Fenton, Betsy Wooster, Lisa Drew, Lynn Spencer, Ruth McDonel, Karen Oehl, Catherine Vastartis.

Lynn Spencer, new Lay Leader and Chairperson of COM, opened with a fable of “the Girl with Four Boyfriends.” We were reminded that of the four: body; status and wealth; family and friends; and spirit, it is the spirit that goes with us even beyond this life into death, and deserves our care and attention. Cultivate, strengthen, and cherish your spirit. Lynn offered a prayer to open our meeting time.

We spent a few minutes introducing ourselves, including new chairs Jane Petrie and Amy Hazelton.

Reviewed both May and June minutes to help bring us up to date with the work of last year’s COM. Both were approved with a correction of the spelling of “Warth” in reference to Tiffany and Steve, both currently on a mission trip to Costa Rica.

Update on nominations: all chairperson positions have been filled with most recently additions of Kay AuWerter chairing Gifts and Memorials and Karen Schroedel chairing the Music Board. A few positions on worship, evangelism, missions, and church and society are waiting for responses.

Old business:

Combining COM and Ad Board, decreasing number of COM meetings? These suggestions came up as part of the ongoing looking at ways to streamline the work we do, cut down on meetings, etc. The feeling of this current group is that although it is a commitment of meeting time, the discussions and work of COM are important enough that we need to continue meeting 8 times a year. We realize that people may need to miss occasionally. We can aim to streamline the meeting itself and keep the time valuable by deemphasizing simply reporting and giving the bulk of our time to discussions of shared projects. It is OK to have no report from your committee. You can also prepare a report ahead and pass it out. Chairs are reminded to read the minutes from other committees that will be sent to you, watch announcements, and so on. Also take back to your committee discussions and information from COM and Ad Board.

Service emphasis in the coming year.

The Missions Committee has a date on the calendar for the ministry fair—January 24. This will be an opportunity for organizations (outside the church) to share projects that people can sign up to help with on the spot. For example: sign up for a trip to the Foodbank or Brooklyn Memorial; sign up for a volunteer spot at a hospital; sign up for a volunteer opportunity in the community; sign up for a day at Nehemiah Mission here in

Cleveland, sign up for a VIM trip. Opportunities ranging from one hour to a longer trip and commitment. Missions is asking for help in ideas of projects and service that might be represented. We need kid-friendly or family-friendly ideas as well.

We need to refine what we are calling this emphasis. “Ministry fair” would probably be interpreted as event held in the past recruiting volunteers for church committees and events. To start acquainting people we need a name, a goal, etc. After discussion, decided on **PROJECT TWENTY TEN**. The number is the calendar year, but also a goal of service hours. The fair would be the kick off event. T shirts will be made. There will be a way for people to report hours (new from any volunteering that they already do), and we will have a way to watch our approach to the goal. Keep thinking!

Cathy Buttolph has offered to help coordinate the volunteers and keep track of service. Not sure what that might look like yet.

The stewardship campaign this year will also help start the process. It is “Serving in Love” and will not only ask for financial pledges, but a pledge to participate in the Project next year.

People can volunteer as individuals or families, or groups within the church might serve together. For example, the CMAP children could serve by sharing music in a nursing home, a Sunday School class might go together to serve a meal, etc.

Committee Reports

No report at this time from UMW per Ruth McDonel.

Communications/Information management—Don K. will look ahead at publicizing Project Twenty Ten. Magazines, online, etc. Are there other ways we should be staffing and using communications. . . .?

Worship, via Jane P: The October Good Word will include a questionnaire covering the worship experience. It will help the committee, staff, and the whole congregation to be aware of and continue improving the worship experience for everyone. It is long enough that it will take some thought to fill out. It includes space for comments and invites people to serve as well.

Missions, Donna Sibits and Catherine Vastartis—Watch for a chance to hear from those who have been on mission trips this summer. They may be reporting after church on August 30.

Music Board/Music Director report from Joy Fenton. This year will see us hosting some significant music events! October 3, ETA3 will be at a “meet the artists” lunch at 12:30 (limited number) and then in concert at 2:00. November 14 is a concert by the Manhattan Piano Trio at 7:30, reception to follow. Very exciting will be our chance to host the Chorister’s Guild Festival all day on April 24, 2010. Children’s choirs from about 15

churches, an excellent clinician, and a festival concert at 4:00 are highlights of the day. Church members will be needed to help with hospitality.

Betsy Wooster—She is still recruiting for some teacher positions. The most crucial openings are in the middle school program, including 8th grade, which helps to support youth in their confirmation year. Many good things planned for fall!

Lisa Drew—Things are gearing up for youth this fall. Katie Bartholomew, who has worked as a ministry intern this summer, has been a big help, and we hope to continue supporting her as she goes to school and looks ahead at the possibility of ministry as a career.

Meeting adjourned—Next meeting on September 14, 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Oehl