

Charge Conference Minutes
Oct. 13, 2011
GUMC

Those present: Dist. Supt. Mary Huycke., Larry Gourley, Dede Gray, Mary Gosney, Ray Gosney, Mary Shane, Ben Moore, Claudia Moore, Brian Wanless, Lynn Wanless, Mike Hay, Linda Hay, Rob Blevins, Joan Crice, Chuck Rice, Mavis House, Ernie House, Dwayne Williams, Sharon Williams, Linda Clemens, Arlene Larison, Linda Anderson, Barbara Fridley.

The meeting was opened at 7 pm with comments from District Superintendent Mary Huycke. Mary shared an experience she and her husband had this summer as part of the Warm Showers program. This program provides a place for bicyclers who are traveling the country during the summer. They get a place to sleep, possibly some food, and warm showers. Two of the girls who stayed with them this summer were excited that Mary was a Methodist Pastor. They had experienced 'church' for the first time in their lives during this trip. Their enthusiasm for this new experience reminded Mary of how important it is for us to DO things. Church is about transforming people, sharing with people, and becoming connected. Sometimes we don't realize how much we do and it is good to be reminded of this.

Mary asked: What are you most proud of that you have done this year? Our answers included:

Keeping all our projects going.....Back Packs For Kids, Soup Kitchen, and Christmas Dinner Boxes were mentioned

Helping out with White Swan and the devastation from their fire

Helping with the meals and snacks for the evacuees from the Monastery Fire

Making a smooth pastoral transition

Mary asked: What were your failures and what did you learn from them?

That we haven't been successful at getting new church members

That we don't have a place for kids during worship. And that we don't have a program for young people and we need to be intentional about changing this

Mary asked: Where does God need us to stretch in the next year?

Fifth Sundays are going to be a time for both worship services to get together over a brunch. Barbara thought we might be able to use these Sunday gatherings purposefully.

Some of our members of the adult Sunday School class are researching the Habitat for Humanity program with the hope of beginning something. Which led to a discussion of the need for shelter for people during the coming winter months. How do we help these people?

Claudia Moore shared that she is in prayerful consideration of a youth program here at GUMC and is talking with at least two people about this. She is cautiously optimistic about the program as working with young folks is her passion.

Charge Conference Business:

Pastoral Compensation—Barbara Fridley, chairperson of SPR recommended we accept the pastor's compensation package as proposed at the last council meeting. Motion was made, seconded and passed to accept it. As an addendum, discussion centered around the possibility of increasing the salary in the future. Mary said it can be done with the calling of a charge conference and approval by that body.

Finance Report – Apportionments are paid through October and are up to date. The congregation has been responsive and generous in giving. The audit report is completed and on file.

Membership Report – Three members' deaths were reported as well as five baptisms during the 2011 year.

Lay Speakers Reports -- Larry Gourley spoke to his giving 5 sermons this year as well as beginning the UMM group. Mary Shane reported that she does the children's message each Sunday, as well as leading the UMW group. Oct. 16 is Laity Sunday, and Ray Gosney will be preaching. Mary asked if the conference would agree to recertify these two lay speakers—Larry Gourley and Mary Shane. The response was a unanimous yes.

Nominations -- Pastor Ben went through the list of church leaders for the coming year. There are some committee chairpersons yet to be elected and added to the list. Nominations were taken from the floor to fill in the Class of 2014 Nominating Committee Members. Two names were added: Mary Shane and Arlene Larison. Mary Huycke asked the group if they would vote to accept these leaders for the 2012 church year. The group voted unanimously to accept these names. (see attached list)

Mary summed up that the church has had a difficult year. There have been some major challenges and we have been through a lot! She also reminded us that through those fears and challenges we grow as a church.

Pastor Ben's closing comments were that he feels that this is one of the healthiest churches that he and Claudia have served. Exciting things have happened in the past year and he feels that exciting things will continue to happen in our future.

The charge conference closed its business at 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Pro Tem
Lynn Wanless