

Aldersgate UMC Council Minutes
January 29, 2012

Present: Harold McCorkle, Bill and Dixie Click, Ella Messer, Steve Nyberg, Hope and Parker Carter, Brenda Hochreiter, Fran Threatt, Lyn Skews, Wayne Miller, Emilie Miller, Deb Nahikian, Ray Lautzenheiser, Bill and Florence Bower, Harry Gibson, Harvey Mayhill, Sue Van Dyke, David Hunt, Dave Silva, Steve and Diane Barfield, Lynn Harris, Sharon Lee, and Audrey Culp.

Wayne Miller opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes: Minutes of the last meeting were presented. Wayne asked that all persons on the Council make sure that we have the correct email address so that you will receive your minutes of the previous meeting in time for you to read over them before the next meeting. Ella asked that everyone who did not receive their minutes this past week, please write you email on the attendance page so that you can be added to the batch mail list. We will not read the minutes at the meeting but we do need to know if there are corrections that need to be made. Hearing no corrections we will approve the minutes of the last meeting as presented. The minutes will be posted on the Church web site and on the church blog, AUMCblog.com. Financial info will be password sensitive.

Finance/Stewardship: Steve Nyberg reporting. Treasurer report was placed on the web site last week. Over the past 6 years this is the lowest amount of pledged monies to the operating budget that we have had. We have \$125,541 pledged this year. We know that we always have special gifts that come in during the year to raise this amount but it is not showing at the current time. Last year we pledged 56% of the budget but this year we have only pledged less that 47%. Last year we were very frugal with our spending. We brought in \$265,538 out of the budget of \$292,032. This year's budget is \$286,754. We do have to face hiring a new choir director and youth director. We have saved some money by changing the secretary. Insurance money that came in did help our situation. At this time we do not have any major bill outstanding. Our 50th Anniversary Loan is down to less than \$21,000. The response to Pam's last challenge was less than last year by almost \$10,000. The giving records will be posted on the web site about the 10th of the month.

Parker is paying the apportionments in ten payments again this year. We do have outstanding items to be paid after 1/22/12 of \$2473.85. Our CD matures on 1/31/12 and will have to be renewed at .3% down from .95% last year. Harvey Mayhill questioned why we did not have the CD as a long term savings so that it would earn more. It was explained that we needed the cushion available in case of a major repair on the heating/air conditioning system. The Finance Committee does not want to put the money where we could not get it quickly if necessary. Steve feels that this will be a challenging year. We are financially sound but we still have to keep up with our giving. Pastor Pam had said that she would try to get our apportionments lowered by the SC Conference. Bill Click responded that this is a two year process.

Steve wants to thank the people behind the scenes that do a great job taking care of our finances, Parker Carter, treasurer; Beverly Marks as head counter and her 6 helpers; and Tom Patrick as Financial Secretary.

Harvey Mayhill thinks the budget is good but wants us to look at the 50% reduction in the budget between 2007 and the present. What is the cause? Included in this financial report should be the number of members on roll and a break down of demographics such as number of members in retirement year, attendance, and new members in the congregation. This might help us discover the core problems and give us an idea of how to strengthen our giving and budget so that we are not constantly squeezing every nickel. Wayne Miller addressed the concerns by stating that the Finance/Stewardship Committee is already looking into this. Harvey also addressed the fact that maybe we are not following up with prospective members on a personal level. Steve Nyberg stated that we are we are trying and that we have to work together to strengthen our fellowship with growing new members.

Trustees: Steve Barfield reporting that tomorrow our new roof is to be installed. It has been a bumpy ride getting this accomplished. We want to thank Mike Sturkie for agreeing to stay on this project until

completion. We do not know when the insurance payment will come through. Because of our financial situation, the Trustees are not going out looking for projects to complete this year. We will take care of things as they develop.

Staff Parrish: Sharon Lee reporting. We met on January 10 to discuss the hiring procedures for our new choir director to replace retiring Gary Wilson. We are accepting applications but we are not going to be in a hurry. Ray Lautzenheiser will serve as interim and Betty Farrington will continue as organist and pianist. Once the choir director is in place, we will then turn our attention to gathering information from parents and youth as to what to look for in person to replace Deb Nahikian as youth director.

Evangelism/Outreach: Hope Carter reported that the committee is trying to get the Visitation Teams up and running again, especially to make contact with the visitors that we have at Sunday worship.

Missions: Brenda Hochreiter reported that we did not participate in the Christmas Boxes with the Girl Scouts because we did not receive the information in time. We did do 60 stockings for John's Island again this year and this was very successful. Do not forget that we have our box to fill with non-perishable food for various food banks around town.

Communications: Lynn Harris is trying to make sure the local news media has the information they need to let the community know what is going on in our church. She will be looking for network savvy persons to help her notify the membership of what is happening at the church. We do have available now our Blog , Facebook and Twitter. She is also looking at using the Advocate as way to advertise what is happening here.

Education: No report

Senior Adult Ministries: Hope Carter reported that the leadership is rotating on a quarterly basis. In addition to the regular monthly meeting there will be special trips and activities planned through out the year. All members and visitors are welcomed to join in our activities.

Youth Ministries: Deb Nahikian said that the pre-registration for CCC was received in December and that ten youth and four adults would be attending this year. Next Sunday will be Souper Bowl Sunday and the youth will be collecting canned goods and donations to give to local food banks. The youth are going to the Children's Attention Home on the third Sunday of each month to play games and socialize with the young people that are there. The youth have two fundraisers coming up to defray the cost of CCC. On February 11 they will sponsor a chili cook off and then on February 21 we will host the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Five or six of our youth will be attending Revolution Youth Rally in Columbia. We will be using the budget youth fund to pay for registration and gas. Each person going will pay for their own food and drinks. We have four senior graduating this year and we will recognize them in May.

Children's Ministries: Fran Threatt thanked everyone for a great December Christmas program. On the second Sunday of the month we will be holding the Kids Club after the 10:30 service. We will serve a light lunch and then have a program or activity. We usually have around 12-15 in attendance. We will begin planning our community wide Easter Egg Hunt for April. Later we will plan for Vacation Bible School to be held the end of June. We need to contact our visitors in some way to let them know about Children's Activities at the church.

Family Ministries: Connie Roberts has met with the pastor to review the year past and what the needs of the church are now. She will be pulling together team to help her plan events for the year. At this time we are looking at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Family Feud Game Night, Family Movie Night, and a covered dish meal for Jonathan and Marissa Harris on March 11, 2012. Wayne Miller thought we might like to address programs for adults and children at different times, like in the evening, rather than all Christian education taking place on Sunday morning.

Sunday School Superintendent: No report. Fran Threatt noted that we do need more Sunday school teachers on all levels. The young adult class struggles because most of its members are involved as teachers in the children's classes. We have to let all visitors know that they are welcome in all classes at all time.

Membership Secretary: No Report

Church Historian: No report

Boy Scouts: Wayne Miller everyone that next Sunday is Scout Sunday. We are looking for about 10 Boy Scout and 5 Girl Scout Families to be present. This year we have chartered 18 Cub Scouts and 8 Boy Scouts. This outreach is growing. We will recognize a special Boy Scout on Sunday, he is from Malaysia and has worked through the program with our boys. The Men's Club will provide breakfast for free to all attending Scout families on Scout Sunday.

Girl Scouts: Girl Scouts will participate in Scout Sunday. We still have about 100 boxes of cookies to sell.

United Methodist Women: Fran Threatt reporting that on February 19 we will celebrate UMW Sunday. Our speaker will be from the Bethlehem Center in Spartanburg. We will give our special mission recognition, we will have officer installation that day also. We have 7 women signed up to the Junaluska Women's Retreat.

United Methodist Men: Dave Silva reported that the UMM will serve breakfast to the Scout Families on Scout Sunday. We are planning a church clean up before Easter. We will be planning to have regular monthly meetings. Hopefully we can have some outings for the men in the fall. Dave is going to update the bulletin board in the hallway. The BarBQue fund raiser brought in about \$1000 to be given to the 50th Anniversary Loan Fund. We learned a lot from our first BarBQue. There will be changes in the fundraiser that we hold in the fall.

UMYouth President: Nothing to add.

Epworth Representative: Dixie Click, no report except for a follow up from the Young at Heart group on the adoption of the girls cottage. At Christmas the group went to Columbia and helped the girls decorate their cottage for Christmas, provided lunch for the group and gave each girl a gift card to buy what they needed. On Valentines we will just send each girl a card. We will give each girl a gift card on their birthday and on Easter we will take Easter Baskets to the girls.

Long Range Planning: No report

Lay Leader: Bill Click has spoken with Pastor Pam about some concern that the services are too long. The Mike Culp Cancer fund has assisted a person in the past few months, with about \$1300. There is a cap on

receiving funds of \$1500 over a two year period. Wayne interjected that on the Blog you will find tapes of programs.

Bill Click closed the meeting with a prayer. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted for approval by the Council

Ella B. Messer, recording secretary