

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
WILKESBORO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

~~May 20, 2017~~ **June 11, 2017 @ 6:00pm—Unapproved Minutes**

The Administrative Council met this date with Chairman Mike Inscore presiding. Devotions were given by Derick Smithey followed by the group sharing in Our Vision. Chairman Inscore presented Items on Consent Agenda which included Minutes of the March 19th Ad Council Meeting, the Financial report ending May 31, 2017, the Parsonage Committee report of the replacement of the hot water heater-cost \$801.34, and the report from our Trustees of the water fountain in the Education Building repaired at cost of \$144.45. Vote was taken on the Consent Agenda without discussion. All approved.

TODAY'S OFFERING: John Groce reported offering for today to be \$5494.23 and for the month \$15,643.

FINANCE: Our new Finance Chairman is Wanda Sapp who presented our Finance Report. Pastor Karen indicated that in her scrutinizing of numbers it appears that finances might be a little better than last year for this time period. Pat Day requested the amount now in the Kitchen Equipment Replacement Fund. Amount reported is \$8,520. Suggestion was made to show these amounts on church bulletins. Copies of Financial Report are attached. Ed Snyder reported he had met with Wilkes Communications who will be responsible for our phone service. One line will become obsolete thus lowering our cost of service.

A copy of the presentation that Reverend A.J. Thomas with JOYFUL GIVING GROUP, LLC, is included in this document and an electronic copy is available upon request. Appreciation was expressed for his leadership in helping us to focus on joyful giving.

UMM: Robert Rizoti reported that their Golf Tournament last Thursday was a success, they have several new sponsors. Amount raised was \$14,500. These funds will be used for projects the Men choose to support. Also, the Men desired to honor Pastor Chris Lakey in a special way and chose to place an amount of \$1,000 in Rebekah's college fund.

DISCIPLESHIP: Chairman Derick Smithey reported that his committee was interested in How to Make Disciples, Taking Jesus to our Community and in Growing God's Community. The 6-week exercise class that began in April led by Anne Groce is reportedly doing well and began a 2nd 6-week session 5/31. Derick requested if anyone had interests or suggestions for other activities to please contact him. A new Church Directory is planned. The Pastor's Robing room is now a Family Room equipped with a rocker and diaper changing table.

OTHER BUSINESS: Shirley Inscore expressed her appreciation for all the help that went into the Celebration of Pastor Chris and his family. David & Jan Taylor will be our delegates to the Western North Carolina Conference June 23-25.

SENIOR PASTOR: Karen shared the feelings of apprehension when we are in the midst of so many challenges and changes and expressed her appreciation to her congregation for their involvement and stated that "God has raised up incredible people" that can overcome and thrive in change. Tom Schardt's last Sunday with us will be June 25. Transition for our congregation continues and we will need to give thought and effort to the Contemporary Worship Service.

Meeting of the Administrative Council will be held in July only if there are issues requiring immediate action. Jan Taylor is designated to give devotions.

Meeting adjourned with prayer led by Rev. A.J. Thomas.

Respectfully submitted by: Pat M. Day, recording secretary

ATTENDEES: Mike Inscore, Shirley Inscore, A.J. Thomas, Derick Smithey, Wanda Sapp, Kathy Clonch, Arnold Lakey, Jan Taylor, David Taylor, Jim Day, Pat Day, Jim Brooks, Jenny Miller, Gretchen Barelski, Antha Reid,

Caroline Randolph, Cindy Winslow, John Groce, Robert Rizoti, Jeff Atwell, Ed Snyder, Chuck Byers, Karen Roberts, John Patton

CONSENT AGENDA

A vote was be taken without any discussion regarding the Consent Agenda items below:

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL: March 19, 2017 Ad Council minutes is attached.

FINANCE: May 2017 Treasurer Reports are attached for informational purposes only.

PARSONAGE: No vote required - informational only. In May, the hot water heater was replaced (\$801.34) by Vannoy and Lankford. Invoice was paid June 6.

TRUSTEES: In May, the water fountain in the Education building hallway was repaired (\$144.45) by Vannoy and Lankford. Invoice was paid June 6.



Wilkesboro United Methodist Church
Administrative Council June 11, 2017

1. Redefining Stewardship

- a. Stewardship isn't
 - i. Hitting people up for more money
 - ii. Raising the money needed for the budget
 - iii. About what God wants *from* us; it is about what God wants *for* us
- b. Stewardship is:
 - i. Rooted in
 - 1. Gratitude
 - 2. Growing closer to God (where your treasure is, there your heart will be)
 - 3. Investing in God's work of transforming lives through your church
 - ii. Ordering our priorities so we can participate in the abundant life Jesus promises
 - iii. A faith response of joyful obedience to God's goodness and faithfulness

2. Should We Tithe?

- a. Tithing, as an expression of joyful obedience, is the standard of Biblical generosity, which we may consider a goal for all Christians to strive toward achieving.
 - i. Even so, "should" is a word we would do well to avoid when it comes to tithing.
 - ii. *Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)*
 - 1. We give not because we "should," but because we want to
 - 2. Giving/sowing a little blesses us a little. Giving more blesses us more
- b. *Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "& see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it (Malachi 3:10)*
 - i. the whole tithe – a full 10% of our income
 - ii. the storehouse – our local worshiping community/church
 - iii. food in my house – so the ministry of our church can be fully carried out
 - iv. Test me in this – the only place in Scripture we are told *to* put God to the test
 - v. Pour out blessing – When we tithe, God blesses us more than we can hold
- c. Tithing is an Old Testament concept which Jesus embraced and took further. Jesus taught that it is good for us to give "all that we can," and to give our best to God.
 - i. For some of us, "all we can give" is actually far beyond a tithe
 - ii. We tithe, not because we should, but because of what it does for us

3. God blesses every step we take in growing in our generosity

- a. Non- or sporadic giver? Give an amount you feel good about each week or month
- b. Giving less than a tithe (10%)? Give 1% more for the next 90 days. See how you are blessed AND how your personal finances change
- c. Tithing off your net income? Tithe off your gross income for 90 days.
- d. Tithing off your gross income? Give a fraction of a percent more for 90 days.
- e. Faithful giver? Consider leaving a bequest of at least 10% of your estate to your church.
 - i. 78% of all charitable giving in the US is identified as religious
 - ii. Yet only 5% of bequest gifts in the US are given to religious causes

4. General vs. Designated Giving

- a. *All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. From time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need (Acts 4:32-35).*
 - i. One heart and mind – working together, on the same team, unified
 - ii. No personal claim – no prioritization of personal pet projects, no strings attached
 - iii. Put at the apostles' feet – brought to the church leadership
 - iv. Distributed to those who had need – released for various ministries
- b. Diverting gifts from general budget to designated funds is financial "Jenga"
 - i. Think of building a house, deck, pier, or fence – some of the resources go below ground, where they'll never be seen, in order for the structure to be strong & last
 - ii. Giving to the General Budget strengthens that unseen foundation
 - iii. The broader the base, the taller the tower
- c. Requires trust and coordination at all levels – donors, staff, and project leaders
- d. Giving to the General Budget is giving without strings attached or the desire to control. This is the true nature of gift-giving!

5. What if everyone took the next step and made a 1% increase in their giving?

- a. The per capita (average per person) income in ZIP 28697 is \$23,199 annually
 - i. 1% of this is \$231.99
 - ii. This would be an increase of \$4.46/week, per person in your household
- b. If every member (532) gave an additional \$4.46 per week, the weekly offering would increase by \$2,372.72; annual offering by \$123,381.44
- c. If everyone attending weekly worship (169) gave an additional \$4.46 per week, the weekly offering would increase by \$753.74; annual offering would increase by \$39,194.48

What more could God do in & through your church with that increase in funds available?

Could your household afford to give an additional \$4.46 per week per person?