

Viroqua and Liberty Pole United
Methodist Churches

Minutes from meetings held April/May
2010

May 18,2010 Administrative Council Meeting-Viroqua UMC

The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m. by Kathy Hanson.

Members present: Kathy Hanson David Peterson, Cavan Fang, Charles Stelzner, Veryl Gerdl, Janet Welch, Robert Starr, Ethan Larson, Orvis Primmer, and Hazel Dach-Hendrickson

The Minutes of the April Administrative Council were approved by consensus.

Finance Committee: The Committee had met on May 13, 2010 and Charles Stelzner gave the report. A summary of the report is in the News Letter.

Worship Committee: This report was given by Cavan Fang.

The Worship committee met Thursday April 22.

We thank everyone who participated in the activities of this past Lent and Holy Week, and helped make these activities successful. Please let us know if you have any feedback from this past Lent, or suggestions for next year's Lenten activities.

Ethan will be away on June 6, so the choir will provide a Sermon In Song for the 10:30 service at Viroqua. Because Ethan will be gone, Communion will be served on May 30 instead of June 6. Ethan will also be gone on June 20; Wayne Goplin will preach that Sunday.

Except for the June 6 Sermon in Song, the choir is now on summer vacation. Please sign up if you are willing to help provide special music on some Sunday this summer, or call us if you know someone who should be asked.

Seven technicians have come to evaluate the condition of our pipe organ and by the end of May they will give us their proposals for repairing the organ. An organ committee is being formed to evaluate the repair proposals. Please contact us if you would like to participate in this process.

Our next meeting will be Thursday June 17 at 6 p.m.

History Committee: Ethan reported that they had met on May 17 and reviewed the pictures and year books. When they have finished with this study, pictures of the confirmation classes will be hung in the hall of the Education Wing.

Trustee Committee: Orvis Primmer gave this report. He stated that many things need fixing. The Parsonage garage needs a vent and the house needs a new steel roof. This work is being planned. Orvis inspected the new Parsonage kitchen stove, and reports it worked well and the strawberry-rhubarb pie was excellent. The church parking lot needs seal coating. The women's toilet in the basement has been replaced with a new unit. He

will have a plumber inspect the toilet in the Day Care area which may be leaking. The old choir room in the basement needs fixing, because of failing plaster. The elevator has been serviced and new wheels will be ordered and replace the old ones that are wearing out. Suggestions were made for maintenance of the elevators to prolong the life of these units.

Education Committee: Kathy reported that Sunday school classes are over until they resume in September.

UMW: This report was given by Janet and a summary is in the News Letter.

Mission Committee: This report was given by Ethan. The committee had met on May 17. The Penny Jar will be left in place until funds are needed. Enough money has been raise to purchase two kits for the in-gathering. The Ice Cream Social will be held the last Sunday in June and the proceeds will be for World Hunger. The Bake Sale raise a total of \$186.75 which will be added to the \$520 already raised for our covenant with Missionary, Paul Webster. This leaves \$338.25 more to complete our covenant with this wonderful man and great Christian work at Mujila Falls.

Wills, Memorials, and Gifts: This report was given by Veryel and a summary is in the News Letter. Discussion of transferring funds in the savings account to the Trustees Fund for an improved financial return was approved by consensus. There was also a discussion of using on-line banking for convenience and saving.

Care and Nurture: This report was given by David. The Committee had met on May 11. The Mother's Day celebration had gone well. The program for greeting visitors was going well. They encourage more participation in the Radio and Bulletin Giving and reminded that a sign-up list for giving is in the church office. There is also a sign-up list for Altar Flowers. It is felt that fresh flowers on the Altar each Sunday is important.

SPRC: Ethan reported that the next meeting will be in June.

Comment [DS1]:

Kathy reported that the Ig-nite meeting will be on July 28, a Wednesday. It will be a grill out, in the parking lot and will be followed by a sing-a-long led by J. Thew, a Barbershop program, and a Christian Rock program. Kathy stated it will be a fun night for all.

Ethan stated that the Annual Conference will be in LaCrosse this year and for the next four years.

The Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Robert A. Starr



Viroqua and Liberty Pole United Methodist Churches

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Rev. Ethan Lowell Larson

MINUTES OF THE WILLS, MEMORIALS, & GIFTS COMMITTEE MEETING

APRIL 8, 2010:

Present: Pastor Ethan, Veryl Gerdl, Dr. Robert Starr, Fred Nelson, Hazel Hendrickson, Chuck Stelzner, and Jolene Gudgeon.

Absent: None

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 P.M. by Chairman Veryl Gerdl.

Memorial & Designated Funds Report: It was noted that the January Report had a typing error of \$300 on the final balance. This was corrected and the accounting records were checked and found correct.

The Memorial & Designated, Funds Financial Report for March 2010 was read. The March ending balance was \$265,229.11 including \$7,282.69 in Undesignated Memorials, \$21,021.48 in Designated Funds, and \$236,924.94 of the Victor Schaefer Unitrust temporarily deposited in this account in order to earn interest until the Administrative Council decides where it will be invested. Motion made by Hazel Hendrickson and seconded by Chuck Stelzner to accept the Memorial, & Designated Funds Report. Motion carried.

Viroqua UMC Endowment Fund: The market value on Jan. 1, 2010 was \$21,077.26. The market value on March 31, 2010 was \$22,764.21. This is an income gain of \$67.26, deposits to the account of \$1,125.00 and a gain in market value of \$494.69. This amounts to approximately 2.7% gain for this fund and the Trustees fund for the year to date.

Viroqua UMC Trustees Fund: The market value on Jan. 1, 2010 was \$114,448.02. The market value on March 31, 2010 was \$118,331.56. This includes an income gain of \$352.26, deposits to the account of \$1,050.00 and gain in market value of \$2,481.28.

Victor Schaefer Unitrust: Our Church received and deposited on March 22 our share of the Victor Schaefer estate in the amount of \$236,859.00 and earned interest in the amount of \$65.94. \$3,889.00 was held back by the Administrators for final expenses. We could receive a minimal amount of this back, but possibly none. The committee was in general agreement with the Administrative Council approval to reimburse the Endowment and Trustees Endowment funds for money borrowed from these funds for parking lot resurfacing, window repairs, roof replacement, tuck pointing the exterior bricks, and parsonage repairs. The balance of this debt is presently \$153,229.11. The balance of the Victor Schaefer Unitrust will be used or invested after a review of the church's needs or special projects. The Pipe organ is in need of major repairs and this is being looked into by the worship committee.

W/M & G Committee Articles of Operation: Each committee member was given a copy of the Wills, Memorials, & Gifts Committee Articles of Operation for review. This was to reinforce the committee's position as an advisory sub-committee to the trustees and all major financial decisions are taken to the Administrative Council and acted upon.



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United Methodist Foundation: The question was raised by Chuck Stelzner whether we are receiving an adequate return on our Endowments invested in the United Methodist Foundation. We can request that the Foundation send a representative to explain where the investments are invested and the return we can expect. Chuck felt we should invite a representative to our church for a seminar on the operation of the United Methodist Foundation. This will be pursued in the near future.

There being no further business, a motion made by Chuck Stelzner and seconded by Dr. Starr and unanimously approved to adjourn at 4:28 P.M.

Veryel Gerdl
Veryel Gerdl-Chairman

VUMC Finance Committee Overview – May 2010

The VUMC Finance Committee will meet on the Thursday June 10th at 1:00 PM, everyone is invited to attend. Copies of all financial committee notes/forms can be requested from me.

Our ending balance in our checking account for March was \$7,000.18. In addition to this we have a reserve of \$5,002.02 in our money market savings account. Our March income was \$14,619.15 and expenses were \$14,875.14. Our checking/savings accounts will be moved to Citizens First Bank where we will be able to utilize on-line banking and bill payments for no additional cost. Categorizing and paying our expenses through this system will allow us to easily track payments making it easier to budget for 2011. The finance committee will hold a **2011 budget meeting on September 28th at 6:00 PM** at the church. All committee chairs are asked to be present on this date.

The Wills/Memorials committee reports that the Trustees and Endowment funds have been repaid utilizing the Vic Schaefer estate funds. Investments of these funds currently reside with the Wisconsin UM Foundation which has returned income of 4.73% year to date. Seven (7) groups/individuals will be bidding on the repairs to the organ which are estimated to be in the neighborhood of \$50,000. The trustees have a defined list of maintenance items (e.g. roof on parsonage, church plumbing repairs, electrical work, etc.) which will add to this cost and be further defined in the future.

**Open your hearts to the love God instills . . . God loves you
tenderly. What He gives you is not to be kept under lock
and key, but to be shared.**

- Mother Teresa

Thank you for your continuing support.

God Bless you all,
Chuck Stelzner, Finance Chairperson

VUMC Finance Committee Meeting Notes – May 13, 2010

Attendees: Cavan Fang, Chuck Stelzner, Bob Starr, Veryl Gertl, Hazel Hendrickson, Ethan Larson, Fred Nelson, Jerry Schroeder.

Minutes of Previous Meeting – Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed by all. The financial figures as corrected in the minutes were accepted. Motion to accept the corrected minutes was made Bob Starr, seconded by Fred Nelson and approved by the committee.

Financial Review – Committee reviewed the financials for March 2010. The beginning balance is \$7,256.87, monthly income was \$14,619.15, monthly expenses were \$14,875.14 and the saving balance is \$5,002.02 with an ending balance of \$7,000.18 in checking. The year to date income was \$67,020.07 versus year to date expenses of \$71,750.72. Liberty Pole has not made any payments in 2010 and currently owes \$3,327.73. Ethan will discuss this at the upcoming Admin Meeting at Liberty Pole and report to the committee on what they are going to do to cover these arrears. No word as to the status of our memo, for Viola/North Clayton parsonage utility arrears (\$3,365.79) from the UMC Conference on Finance. Committee agreed to have the checking/savings accounts moved to Citizens 1st from Viroqua Bank providing on-line bill payments would have no cost. Chuck will ensure that church accounts are not considered a business account which might have charges levied. Committee agreed to have finance committee create Cross/Flame summary for Wills/Memorials, except in months when Wills/Memorial committee meets.

Wills/Memorials/Collections – Veryl reviewed the Wills/Memorials financials as well as the Foundation statements. Current statement shows that the church has paid off the debt to the Trustees and Endowment funds. Committee recommended (motion by Chuck, second by Veryl) that \$60,000 from the Vic Schaefer Unitrust be transferred from the money market account to the Trustees fund. Veryl will take this recommendation to the trustees and then get approval from the Admin Council. It was also recommended that we keep the funds at a 50-50 (cash-stock) split and review this in early fall. A recommendation was also made to have the cash portion of the investment moved to the pooled fund (extra .4% interest) which Veryl will look into. Veryl will also determine whether we can re-invest earnings as opposed to receiving an annual check. Our current YTD yield on these funds is 4.73%.

Miscellaneous

Insurance – Held over until next meeting. Need 2009-2010 policies.

North Clayton – Ethan will send Chuck an email noting the name/address of individual to send letter to requesting they stop paying parsonage expenses.

Organ Repairs – Four groups/individuals have looked at the organ and are preparing recommendations for repairs.

Stewardship – All committee members be prepared to discuss stewardship ideas at June meeting.

To Do List

- 1) Chuck will evaluate insurance coverage options
- 2) Greg Cheever will submit recommendations to Chuck for Stewardship for June meeting.
- 3) Veryel will determine changes to Articles of Operation for WM committee.
- 4) Kathy will chair meeting on organ repairs
- 5) Kathy – Continue to discuss budgeting/reporting for 2011 with Sandy.
- 6) Chuck/Hazel – Will move accounts to Citizens 1st and setup on-line banking.
- 7) Hazel – Will create invoice for New Hope and Retreat churches which will begin paying parsonage costs in July.

Meeting Dates/Assignments

Finance Committee:

June 10, 2010 @ 1:00 PM – Chair: Chuck; Minutes: Chuck

July 15, 2010 @ 1:00 PM – Chair: Cavan; Minutes: Hazel

August 12, 2010 @ 1:00 PM – Chair: Veryel; Minutes: Hazel

September 16, 2010 @ 1:00 PM – Chair: Fred; Minutes: Hazel

Note: Chair of meeting is responsible for writing summary for the next months Cross and Flame publication. See calendar or secretary for deadline date.

Budget Meeting: All committee chairs September 28th @ 6:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Charles A. Stelzner, Finance Chairperson



Christian Education Committee Meeting Minutes April 19, 2010

Present: Sonia Bjerkos, Janette Hanson, Kathy Hanson, Mallory Hanson, Joanne Hornby, Pastor Larson, Kristin Parrot, Linda Weinau

Minutes: Minutes reviewed. Sonia motioned and JoAnn seconded to approve. Motion passed.

Reports:

Sunday School

May 9th – The Toddler class will do a presentation during Children's moment.

May 16th – Sundae Sunday and the last day of Sunday School for the children and JoAnn's Adult class. Teacher Recognition during church.

Janette and Kathy have been cleaning in the Sunday School rooms.

It was determined that a rocking chair be moved from the Youth Room to the Daycare.

Janette and Kathy will talk to Deb Deaver and decide about a possible summer program.

Youth

There have been no recent activities.

Daycare

The Daycare is full. Stephanie Larson has been doing some substitute work. We are current on payments to the church.

Confirmation

Confirmation will be held on May 2.

Old Business:

Palm Sunday

Palm Processional went well. The kids did a great job with the skit.

Easter Breakfast

Approximately 100 people attended the Easter Breakfast. We took in \$145 over expenses. Sonia and Mary have been thinking that they would like to buy some utensil type things for the kitchen. It was suggested that they talk to Janice Primmer about this.

Acolytes

We would like to have the acolytes stay in church for the entire service. Should they sit in the front pew? Should they wear robes? We will discuss this again in August.

New Business:

Sundae Sunday

May 16th – Janette will get the supplies. Kristin will bring homemade hot fudge. Sonia will talk to the cookie ladies.

SS Recognition

May 16th during the church service.

Summer Plans

Janette & Kathy will talk to Deb Gardner and determine whether to contact CEF about doing another Bible School.

Other:
FUN!

We participated in a "Personality Test" administered by Jo Ann.

Next meeting:

Monday, August 2 @ 5:30 pm (Potluck)