

The Arden United Methodist Church Council met on Monday August 24th at 6:30 pm with the following council members present: Ashley Horst, Ed Tryon, Willa McDonald, Jim and Sherry Whitacre, Scott Boyd, Jerry Horner, Doris Fiddler, Ron Nagley, Tom Bryant, Betty Catrow, Pastor Sarah Schliekert, Jack and Anne Deardorff.

Doris Ann shared readings from Mathew and Proverbs concerning children – how they are regarded by Jesus and how they should be raised up in the Word. These were especially appropriate meditations as we prepare to launch Sunday School in September. We shared our own personal stories of Sunday School and closed with a prayer of thanksgiving for the children God sent and for our plans to raise them up.

The minutes from the June 22nd meeting were approved via email and are on file with recording secretary.

Administrative Reports

Finance Committee – Kevin Kelly

The first order of business was to vote Kevin Kelly to finance chairman of the council and into council membership. A meeting date will be set as soon as possible with Pastor Sarah, Kevin, Kathy Burcham, and Jack to discuss important upgrades needed to our accounting reports. The objective is to have more financial information in front of the council so that important decisions affecting the economics of the church can be made.

Entered into secretary records are Jan through July General Fund Transaction Report and Arden 2015 Quick Cash Flow Summary.

Staff – Pastor – Parish Relations Committee – Scott Boyd

Scott distributed a document to outline the current, proposed, and conference minimums for clergy compensation. From the document, we were able to see that:

1. Arden's Pastors Salary exceeds the conference (recommended) minimum by \$335.00 per year.
2. Arden's Housing Allowance does not meet the conference (recommended) minimum. Currently we are short from the minimum by \$7,424.

Scott brought a recommendation from the SPPRC to increase the housing allowance in 2016 by \$2,500. Although any future increases will be addressed annually, it is the hope to close the gap between our housing allowance and the conference minimum in three years. Council approved the increase. A copy of the document viewed by council is entered in the secretary records.

SPPRC will convene on 8/30 to discuss and vote on nursery candidate.

Trustees – Jim Whitacre

Whitford Property – Bonnie is moving out of the house. Council recommended that she be advised of a final move out date of 9/1. Eric Butler, realtor, will make recommendations for upgrades and repairs to enhance the sale of the property. The Trustees will consider and make decisions in that regard.

All other Trustee projects: outdoor lighting, parsonage renovation, water heater, bell tower, are ongoing.

We also discussed the need for key persons to be trained on the heating/cooling of the FLC. The area is too cool during the week when no one is in the building.

Ministries/Programs

A. Pastor Sarah – *Charge Conference* for Arden will be included with a number of other churches as part of a Cluster Charge Conference on Saturday, September 19th at 1pm Trinity UMC Church. Lay leadership committee will be meeting in early September to fill the opening spots for 2016. (slate as of this date is entered into records) She went through the list of reports that will be included in the charge conference packet. At charge conference, we will present and vote on the following:

1. **Pastor's Compensation**
2. **2016 Lay Leadership slate**
3. **Continuation of Ed Tryon and Carol Beebe as Lay SErvants**

Other documents to be included are reports from each of the ministry/programs that report to the Council. These one paragraph (recommended) reports should be completed and sent to Pastor Sarah by 9/3.

Mary Jo Sims, a retired pastor from our conference will be affiliated with Arden UMC as part of her retirement obligations. Previously she has served as conference secretary to the Bishop and a chaplain at Wesleyan. She will be an excellent resource to assist PS when called upon.

An invitation to attend an upcoming seminar – “*Healthy Church Prescriptions*” was shared. The event will take place on Sat. 10/24 from 9a – 3p at Glen Mar UMC. Please let PS know if you are interested in attending. Document of file.

Homecoming Sunday – September 13th will include a time of history sharing in the FLC during the Sunday School hour. A pot luck picnic will take place in the pavilion (weather permitting) following worship.

Disciple 1 Bible Study will begin on 9/10 – 6:30p-8:30p in the FLC. Thirty four weeks. \$40 is the suggested donation for materials – no one will be turned away because of inability to donate. The Thursday morning Bible Study will follow the Sermon Series selected for worship. Folks can attend that group or join the Harvest SS class and receive the same message.

Membership audit shows 130 plus members have provided information through online enrollment. The paper enrollments have not yet been added.

- B. Beyond the Walls – Tom Bryant** We continue to donate a substantial amount of goods to C-CAP. Our gleaning participation has come to a stop. We hope that someone will pick this up in the near future.
- C. Congregational Care – Sherry Whitacre** – will be reaching out to congregation to assist with the details of the Homecoming picnic.
- D. Worship – Ashley Horst** Pam Thornton will be stepping down from the *bell choir*. The worship committee hopes that someone within the group will take over OR perhaps someone from the congregation. More to come.

The *Sunday Schedule* is as follows: 8:30 Casual Worship – 9:45 Sunday School for all ages – 10:45 Full Worship in Sanctuary. Discussion is happening within the early service attendees and the worship committee about the vision of the 8:30 service.

Special Services: An earlier in the day service geared towards kids for Christmas Eve. In the future, considering a Blue Christmas Service – held on 12/21 (longest day of the year) to provide an outlet for those who have difficulty connecting with the joy due to circumstance.

- E. Spiritual Growth – Doris Ann** submitted a written report from VBS (on file) To recap: 38 students – 25 staff volunteers – Enough collected in daily VBS offering to purchase two outdoor tables for Mountain Ridge School.

Bibles will be given to every 3rd – 5th grader in our church as part of the education plan. Children do not have to be enrolled in the Sunday School program to receive one. Once we get everyone caught up, we will give Bibles to children entering the third grade.

F.. Youth Ed Tryon – reported that the Youth and parents served a meal at Immanuel’s House for over 100 guests. They also sponsored a swim party in July. Planning meeting for 2016 is forthcoming.

G. UMW – no report

H. UMM – Tom Bryant - funds for the Yard Sale were used to purchase lighter tables for the convenience of the group for future events. The heavier tables were donated to the cub scout group led by Michael Parello .

I. Young Adults – no report

J. Family Ministries – Michael and Erica Parello – PS reported that there was a Trunk or Treat event planned for Sat. October 31st from 2 – 4 pm. Hopefully the Youth will assist with the games/activities. More to come.

K. Volunteers in Mission – Brittany Young - no report was given, but we will learn more about the trip to Logan WV on Mission Sunday, in October.

On October 3rd the first Prayer Walk for the town and people of Martinsburg will be held. Persons should gather at Trinity UMC at 8:30 am. Groups will walk the streets and communities of Mbg and pray in an effort to increase the awareness of faith in the community.

L. Prison Ministries/Cluster News – Ron Nagley - Ron continues to work closely with the Emmaus prison ministry. Ron indicated that the group had lost some key personnel.

From the UMCCluster, Ron thanks Jim Whitacre and Jack Deardorff for cooking the burgers and dogs at the Vesper Service and community meal in July. In August, 13 churches participated at a booth at the Youth Fair. Many pocket bibles were given away.

Ron has been Arden’s representative to the Berkeley County cluster for 14 years and is asking to be replaced at the end of 2015. He asked that lay leadership please add a search for his replacement.

Our next meeting will be held October 26th at 6:30 PM in the FLC.

Recorded by,
Anne Deardorff