

The annual Charge Conference of Arden United Methodist Church was held on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at Trinity UMC in Martinsburg WV. Charge conference was presided over by Rev. Mary Jo Sims. Representing Arden UMC was: Pastor Sarah Schliekert, Sam Tryon (lay member to annual conference), Scott Boyd ( SPPRC chair), Sue Nagley (member), Kevin Kelly (finance chair) and Anne Deardorff( church council recording secretary). The Frederick District lay leader was also present, Barbara Shew.

Pastor Sarah distributed Arden UMC 2015 Charge Conference packet containing all of the materials to be discussed and/or voted on during our time together. A copy of the packet is on file with the church council recording secretary. The following topics were presented as is protocol with Charge Conference:

**A. Pastor Compensation Package**

Although we are meeting salary minimum requirements and are taking active steps to close the gap in our housing allowance, we were reminded that other churches in our area – similar in size – were meeting both criteria. This information was offered as informational only, and not as a reprimand.

**B. Membership Report**

After viewing the written report, we were asked if there were any additions or corrections to the membership report. By consensus, we agreed that the report was correct. Pastor Sarah stated that our plan to update membership had been implemented and was ongoing.

**C. Lay Leadership Report**

Sarah explained that our 2015 Lay Leadership slate, was incomplete. In the months remaining in 2015, it is expected that all positions will be filled by the 1/1/16 activation date.

**D. Pastor's Report**

Pastor Sarah provided a report on the state of the church and an account of her ministry. Highlights of her report include the warm welcome she and her family have experienced, addition of the Disciple Bible Study, restart of Sunday School, strength in leadership roles, tightening up the administrative tasks of the church, and the restart of Bible Sunday. Regarding the pastor's continuing education and spiritual growth, Sarah outlined her involvement with the delegation to Jurisdictional Conference. She is very interested in financial leadership programs through the conference.

**E. Lay Servant Report**

Arden currently has two Certified Lay Servants – Ed Tryon and Carol Beebe. After reviewing the documents completed by each lay servant, the 5 members present voted to accept Ed and Carol for continued service.

**F. Finance Report**

Mary Jo pointed out that there was some work to do to bring the Finance Report up to standards. Sarah indicated that we had been without leadership in this area for most of the year, and expects improvement with Kevin's return to Finance chair.

Kevin brought a matter to a vote while at Charge Conference. As recorded in Church Council minutes from March 30<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Trustees Bank accounts will have a signature change. Kathy Burcham (accountant) will be primary signatory on the Building Fund, Memorial Fund.,

and General Fund. The second signatory on the General Fund will be Kevin Kelly. The second signatory on the Building and Memorial Funds will be Jim Whitacre. Scott Boyd seconded the motion and all present were in favor.

Rev. Sims informed us that Arden has a reputation throughout the conference of a healthy growing, spirit filled church. She closed our session with prayer.

As recorded by,  
Anne Deardorff  
Council recording Secretary