

Administrative Board Meeting
Monday, September 17, 2007 - 7:00 p.m.

Melinda Huisenga, Chairperson, called the meeting to order and opened with a touching vocal solo, "Open My Lips, I Will Sing Your Praises Forever", followed by prayer. She called attention to the wonderful remodeling of 700 Main, which is still in progress, and expressed appreciation for it. She then presented a personal testimony of how God has directed her life beyond her belief and how the Holy Spirit is working within her. She referred to the fact that our church will be celebrating 175 years and how those before us faced many tough decisions. Where will our church be 25-50 years from now? We need to fight thoughts of discouragement, as we face exciting and scary things ahead. She presented an interesting "Symetry of Numbers". We need to seek God's will, and the love of God will take us over the top. She closed with prayer.

Bill Winkler, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, reported that our average weekly attendance is down approximately 7%, current attendance being 760 compared to last year's of 818. He further noted that while attendance is down, our total receipts are the same as last year, which is approximately 64% of our budget. He concluded that this shows we have a church with committed people.

Ronn Marshall presented an update from the Strategic Plan Implementation team. He noted that we are a church in decline, and the team has learned a lot. He presented some figures: 24% of our members are in worship, 24% in disciple study and 80% of those between 18 and 30 years of age have no church connection. We have a lot of things to celebrate, and we need to be innovative in our work. Two important things are communication and evangelism. Be aware and mindful of some promising new ideas.

Tara Gebbink and Samantha Schurter presented a very detailed proposal to create a new outreach ministry to young adults in the downtown Peoria area, a Main Connection Coffee House. This would create a viable alternative to the bar scene. Plans for this unconventional ministry came directly from the Strategic Plan Committee, since the Strategic Objective Number 4 states that the average age of the congregation should be under the age of 50, and these numbers are not increasing. This would be a public coffee house which FUMC will own and operate; it is not a Christian coffee house. This would be a relational ministry, a ministry which uses relationships as its tool to express the love of God and identifies the universal human desire for interaction and connection. Space is vacant directly across from our parking lot on Main Street and is currently called "The Dungeon". Detailed plans of the operation were presented, and it was noted that relational ministry is not numbers-driven, high pressure or fast. Rev. Steve Pichaske would oversee this operation, and volunteers would be needed to work regularly. It was noted that there were certain risks to be considered: financial failure, failure to make relationships and security. If any of these areas failed, the Main Connection Coffee House would close in two years. David Bullock, Director of Youth Ministries, noted that he has seen an operation such as this work in Alabama and it was very successful. Patti Bash expressed support that it was a wonderful and needed idea. The committee requested some set-up funding to get this ministry started. Loy Sloan moved, seconded

by Ronn Marshall, to approve \$15,000 be given to this ministry to start and investigate the operation of a coffee house. Vote was taken and carried unanimously. This committee will report back at the December Administrative Board Meeting. You may obtain a copy of the proposal in the church office or by emailing Tara Gebbink or Samantha Schurter.

Jack Gove, Trustees Chairman, presented the following recommendation:

The Trustees recommend the purchase of the Mytee Muffler Shop and property located at 612 Hamilton Boulevard, Peoria, Illinois, from Mr. Frank Hoerdemann, owner, for
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The offer would be valid only with the following provisions:

FUMC must have a signed legal document from the Peoria Public Library (PPL) agreeing to accept this property as a suitable parking lot.

PPL must provide FUMC the deed to their parking lot on N.E. Perry.

An Environmental Phase #1 Study that is acceptable to FUMC Trustees must be completed.

Funding for this property would be sought in the form of funds from the Church Foundation and/or multiple sources. The remaining funds, estimated to be \$60,000, to make the muffler property into an acceptable parking lot will be requested at a later time.

The Trustees feel that this was a long-felt need and would provide ownership of the entire block. The longer we wait, the more the cost. The Library Director and President of the Board are willing to make this swap, the owner of the Muffler property is willing to sell, and an appraisal has been made. Discussion followed. Vote was taken and carried unanimously.

Dan Philips, in the absence of Jim Bateman, Chairperson, presented a report from the Architectural Committee. He emphasized that this was an update report for information purposes only and no action would be required. This is a progress report from the Committee formed by Resolution at the last Administrative Board meeting. It was built on the congregational needs research conducted by the Footprint Committee, which identified the need for a multi-function facility, more classrooms for all ages, to reduce the feeling of “two churches”, and more safety for young children in a controlled area. The Committee has worked with an architect to develop a Master Plan for the FUMC campus, and this plan was presented, though it can be adjusted and “tweaked” considerably. The plan highlights a new multi-function facility, a new multi-story

atrium/gathering space, new office area and a controlled access area for pre-K classrooms/nursery. Other highlights included 700 Main becoming the Youth Center, Neutral ground moving to the present Arts Place in 700 Main, the present Neutral Ground building being removed and a new improved parking plan with a cross walk on Perry to the atrium entrance. The benefits would be that all activity except youth would be on the same side of the street, a safe area for young children close to where their parents are, the gathering space becomes a focal point, greater flexibility for event planners, better internal traffic flow, improved energy efficiency, more opportunities for fellowship and space for more members and more activity. This is a definite plan for growing! The cost is estimated at roughly \$12 million, depending upon details of a final plan. This is more than can be raised in a single capital campaign and will require a financing plan to be determined. Right now we have a Master Plan and the next steps will be to provide opportunities for congregational review of the plan, make changes as needed, visit other churches who have made similar changes and engage an architect to develop schematic drawings when we feel we are ready, perhaps in 2008. The Committee would like input into this process. There was very little discussion: one question regarding parking and one question regarding the present Wesley Hall (and it will remain the same).

Dr. Tim Bias reported that the Madison Avenue United Methodist Church will become a part of our church and will become a mission campus for us and we will need to decide how to meet the needs of it. They have an endowment which keeps them going. Bill Allen would become a part of our staff, and the next step would be to sit down with that church and get them to accept our mission. He was not sure where this was going, and the District Superintendent will probably extend that campus to us at the Charge Conference in December.

Dr. Bias then presented a Shepherding update for Cathy Clark, reporting that 12 contacts out of 35 were made. The bottom line is that we need to develop relationships, as people come where they are connected.

Under "Other Business" there was a proposal to re-name 700 Main. Due to the late hour and the presentations at this meeting, this discussion was tabled.

The next Administrative Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 3, 2007, to be followed by the Charge Conference, and all members were encouraged to plan to attend.

Meeting was adjourned with a benediction by Dr. Bias.

Marjorie Neff, Secretary