

Dalton First United Methodist Church Council

February 23, 2010

Church Parlor

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING

- (1) The meeting was called to order by Church Council Chair Steve Roan.
- (2) Jim Burdick opened the meeting with prayer and lit the candle.
- (3) Steve Roan commented that Church Council will be asked, along with Joel Group, Laity, and Ministerial Staff to bring change in the coming months. Many hours of meetings have been held and much work has been done. Steve Roan commented that the change is not being required because we are doing something wrong, but because we are doing many good things and want to escalate those activities and add others. It is our time to continue to advance the works of those who have gone before us.

II. FINANCE REPORT

- (1) C.S. Lee reported that January was an outstanding month. Income and expenses are both in line. Cash in Bank is \$209,883 with bank note at \$536,625.

III. COMMITTEE FOCUS

- (1) Jim Burdick reported for the Worship Committee. Following is the text of his presentation.

2010 LENTEN PROGRAM

THEME: Last year, we considered Biblical teachings of Jesus concerning ways to make our lives more joyful, more productive, more abundant. This guidance is readily accessible, and applies equally to everyone.

This year, we consider the fact that we are all different, with unique talents, skills, gifts. We will each have an individual calling from God to use those attributes for His purposes. But just how do we tune into the words or signs which God uses to show each of us personally, how to put our individual piece of the puzzle into His plan?

Chances are, if He spoke to us in the still, small voice He used with Elijah, we would never hear. Our lives are so busy, our schedules so full, we have no time to just listen for God to speak.

This year we consider seven Spiritual Disciplines - (seven types of self-discipline) which can help us tune out the distractions of our life and free our minds to be receptive to whatever message God has for us. The inspiration for the series is a

classic book by Richard J. Foster, titled Celebrating Discipline. There is a book study and discussion forum on Sunday evenings in parallel to the Thursday lessons.

ECUMENICAL: With all the economic and social challenges that Dalton faces, it is important for all Christian denominations to work together to help those in need, and to show them the love Christ has for them. All of our guest speakers this year are from churches other than Methodist, in the hope that this Lenten series will make some connections and start some relationships which will help our various Christian fellowships come together.

WHAT'S NEW: We have always struggled with the problem of access to our Lenten lessons for those who cannot attend our noon services and luncheons. We have previously tried having two services, with one in the evening for those who cannot leave work to come at noon. This year, we are taking advantage of the new technology we now have, and are making a video recording of the lesson. Through a link made available through e-mail and our Web site, people will be able to access the lesson all through the following week.

To add variety to our luncheons, and to keep costs down, we are changing from our old standard of soup and sandwiches to a hot entree, typically some kind of casserole.

SUMMER: We plan to repeat the four combined 11:00 a.m. Communion services with musical themes. Two will be in Famber Hall and two in the sanctuary. A decision will soon be made regarding the Master Teacher Sunday School Sessions.

(2) Missions Committee. Kerry Sikes reported that the Missions Celebration Weekend was very successful with pledges totaling \$168,000. They have set their budget at a little over \$200,000.

Billy Beard reported on the recent mission trip to Belize. Their team gave out 1200 Bibles and 3000 pounds of beans, rice and flour. He encouraged anyone who hasn't been on a mission trip to consider going with the next group to Belize. The team plans to talk about their trip to a combined Sunday School class. Billy reported on those in the hospital and those who have recently been released.

(3) Jan Byrum reported that the 4th and 5th grade lock in has been rescheduled for Friday February 28. Additionally she said that the upcoming Human Sexuality class has 35 registrants and a waiting list. Lindsay Laney reported that Confirmation class started at the beginning of the year. She requested prayer for the mentors and those to be confirmed.

(4) Robin Lindsey reported that he and Kathy plan to travel to Israel February 21, 2011 for 10 days. This is their fifth trip and they go every other year. He will be getting brochures soon and will be glad to talk to anyone interested in taking the trip.

- (5) Patty Coppedge spoke regarding the upcoming Church Retreat March 19th - 20th. Members of The Joel Group, Church Council, and Church Staff have been asked to commit a Friday evening and Saturday for a Planning Retreat. Facilitator for the retreat will be John Ed Mathison, who retired after leading Frazer United Methodist Church. One of the goals of the retreat is to determine exactly how to make CBS – Connect, Build, and Send – part of the very DNA of Dalton FUMC.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Chuck Upchurch.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Cruse, acting recorder