

PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHURCH COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes –April 26, 2012

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Church Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on April 26th at Peace United Methodist Church by Chairperson Cris Williams. Pastor LeeAnn Inman opened the meeting explaining that she was filling in for Wayne Wyatt, our DS, as presiding elder. Her purpose was to receive the recommendation concerning the candidacy of Eddie Pipkin to become a Licensed Local Pastor. We then opened in prayer lead by Larry Myers.

Members Present:

John Norman, John Gordon, Cris Williams, Jeff Sparks, Cindy Wheatly, Heather Adams, Julie Chatfield, Ken White, Bonnie White, Janice Adams, Brian Wearne, Eddie Pipkin, Peggy Sousa, Jana Hart, Larry Myers, Reverend LeeAnn Inman, Casey Johnson, and Gary Daniels.

A. Recommendation Concerning Eddie Pipkin to become Licensed Local Pastor:

- Peggy Sousa announced that the Staff Parish Committee recently met and took a unanimous vote to recommend Eddie Pipkin to be a Licensed Local Pastor. Leeann stated that this intention was announced 3 times, that the voting is strictly limited to the members of the congregation, and that we will submit a roster and vote collected from a written ballot and counted by Church Council and Staff Parish. Eddie had time to share why he felt this recommendation was a part of God's call for him. He shared that he has done ministry for 30 years and that he was one of the first people to run the youth program here at Peace. Recently he took time away from doing ministry, giving himself a chance to explore things, but he continued working with Jose down at Casa. Eddie mentioned that he had resolved himself, once his kids were in college, to go back to teaching college, but the opportunity came to be working back here at Peace. Eddie has never thought of himself in a formal pastoral role but is now, now that he is in the process, a process designed to help determine his call. It's been a confirmation all the way through that God is calling Eddie and formalizing his time. The Methodist church has a great process to make sure candidates are in line with what the UMC expects. Leeann continued explaining that the licensing process places Eddie at Peace. He also has to complete a battery of psychological tests. John Norman asked

what we were voting to support exactly and Leeann answered that we were agreeing that Eddie has the gifts and graces for ministry. John Gordon inquired if Eddie was required to stay at Peace or if he had the ability to move around. Eddie stated that nothing in the process required him to stay at Peace but that he did not have any plans to go anywhere else. Cindy asked Eddie what his vision for ministry was. Eddie expressed that his biggest passion had to do with worship. Eddie is passionate about helping people worship God in ways that are significant. He is also fascinated with the work of Jose and Jim, pushing out and meeting the needs of the community, sending people out. Leeann shared some questions established by John Wesley in 1746 to help us form a clear picture of what we were voting for on behalf of Eddie. She reminded us that we had asked Eddie to go through this process in order to work at Peace and he agreed. He has felt affirmed in the process. Eddie agreed saying that when he is doing God's work, it's the thing that feels right. Ken asked what the difference between an ordained and Local Pastors License was. Leeann answered that an Ordained Pastor is not a member of the local church but rather of the Annual Conference. Ordained Pastors have another level of education and are ready to move if the Bishop wants them to move. Ordained Pastors also have a level of accountability required by the Annual Conference to include continued education. John Gordon asked if Eddie's family was supporting this? Eddie expressed yes and shared that Melanie said, "It's about time." Melanie had to sign a form as a part of the process that she was okay with this. John expressed that Eddie's candor was greatly appreciated. Leeann asked Eddie to leave just long enough for us to have a conversation and a vote. Eddie left the room, discussion was shared, Eddie returned and Leeann announced the unanimous vote to support Eddie through the process to become a licensed local pastor.

B. Business & Announcements:

- Minutes were sent to Church Council members via email prior to the meeting. MOTION by John Gordon to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. SECOND by John Norman. The minutes were unanimously approved with no additions or corrections.

- **Pumpkin Patch:** (Casey Johnson) On behalf of the staff, Casey requested permission to operate a church wide Pumpkin Patch. Casey is willing to coordinate it and has great ideas such as hosting a craft show and bake sale on one weekend and then a hay ride, crafts, bounce house, games and more during another weekend. If all the ministries of the church are involved she feels we will have enough help to make it work. Casey would like to collaborate efforts with Joe, the person in charge of the Celebration Patch. Celebration generates \$35,000.00 per year in revenue and they are excited and willing to coach us through the process. Joe suggests more shade,

lighting at night, a hay bale maze, and photo opportunity throughout. There is an initial cost of approximately \$2000.00, but the amount spent will be well worth it in the money gained. Looking at our Patch History, the most we made was \$14,000.00, the least we made was \$4,000.00. Since we are teaming with Joe from Celebration we have an expert to guide us. Upon approval from the council, we will place our order tomorrow. We have already been pre – approved by the same company we have used in the past and the same company that Joe uses. We will be getting our delivery the same day as Celebration, the second delivery that day, which will be on Friday September 28th. Plus, as we sell the pumpkins we will have re-deliveries throughout the month. To start, 10% of the proceeds will go to the Women's Shelter in Kissimmee in exchange for the help that Joe is providing us. The rest will go towards church wide missions to be determined. We need approval from the council for their blessing and support to take on this project and we need approval to purchase the tents and supplies prior to the event. An open discussion was shared regarding the patch and it was agreed to support the patch.

- **Vital Signs Q1 Update:** (Cris Williams) We were given a handout of specific goals the conference encouraged us to create and keep track of. The update shows how we are doing for the first quarter. Across the board we are tracking pretty well. (See 2012 Peace UMC Vital Signs Q1 Update.)
- **Web site update:** (Cindy Wheatly) Cindy shared that we are at an exciting place because we have selected a host called Radiant. It is now in place and we can begin the actual web development. We will be meeting Monday night to firm up our plans. The timeline has a grand unveiling in the Fall when everyone returns from Summer activities and vacations. If anyone is interested in helping we'll need a lot of help to pull this off. But, it's coming together nicely. Leeann stated she was excited about people inquiring about church membership and having a place for them to click on the web site. We have really taken time to push information out such as the devotional during Lent. We are also looking for more opportunities to do things like that . We want to be present and keep things front of mind and easy for people to find. The web site will be easy to navigate and include things like online giving and provide more content and information that will draw them in. A concern was mentioned that we were orphaning the current site while we are waiting for the new stuff . It was suggested that we get Jolee involved because the old web site was not the domain of the people building the new website.
- **Youth Ministry-**(John Norman) We wanted to give an overview of the YMA assessment. Leeann spoke on behalf of the youth and YMA process. YMA was here and met extensively with focus groups creating a very comprehensive assessment. It came complete with a timeline on getting things done. It showed that we are at a point in Youth Ministry that if we

don't have more support- volunteer and staff- due to the amount of young people we are drawing in, we will not continue to be successful. The suggestion to be the best and most effective Youth Ministry is one adult to every 5 students, especially with Middle School kids. Brandon is being challenged to be a different kind of leader and we are asking a lot of Brandon. Brandon is open to growing. This process and guideline will allow him to fulfill what God is calling him to do. He's got to grow and grow our base of volunteers too. (See Attached Youth Ministry Assessment Report for complete details.)

- **Finance:** (John Gordon): We were given a short version review of the first quarter, Jan, Feb and March. We were also given the larger Budget verses Actuals. The reports showed great measuring sticks. We review the short version. Jeff asked if there was anything we should be concerned about going forward? John expressed that he is hopeful in a reduction of HOA expenses. And though we are a little shy on income, he is concerned, but not overly concerned. From a budgeting standpoint, we budget for the Summer low and we have not had a cash call. New members keep coming. It was asked how much was in our Money Market Account? John replied, \$81,457. We also have several accounts with a surplus. For example: Biker Sunday, which has already occurred, still has a surplus of \$ 2100.00. The area we do have a slight issue with is Youth. It appears the ski trip is running at a loss of \$1030.00. The other events, Brandon has done a great job with because there is a better check and balance in place. Leeann mentioned that Sally was moving towards a church based accounting software that will improve things for her and for us and how we read financial documents. There are things that a church based software takes into account that Quickbooks does not. Peggy asked if we had a surplus in an account could we use that money to buy a tent- since it's an event that uses a tent. Yes, but it would involve the finance committee to figure out what portion of it goes towards the tent. In the future we should designate funds to Outreach instead of the more specific title of Biker Sunday to use surplus in different ways.
- **Trustees:** (Jeff Sparks): Jana was contacted by Hector Blanco of Globetech Construction. Hunters Creek has awarded them a contract to install new water and waste water pipes. The project is schedule next month. They are looking for a place to house their staging facility and equipment and wondered if we would like to lease a portion of our property for that use. Jeff asked if there were any pros and cons and what the church council would feel on behalf of the church if we utilize the property in this way. A question about the Hunters Creek HOA was address and we also expressed that this opportunity provided a lot of benefits. It was recommended to at least look into it and ask questions.

- **Youth Auction:** (Leeann) Leeann reminded us all that tomorrow night the youth was hosting a terrific event, silent auction and dinner catered by Flat Rocks all going towards our Youth Summer Mission Projects.
- **Quick update on the front and landscaping:** (John Gordon) John was dedicating another weekend with 3 young men in the hopes of obtaining their landscaping plan. The men now have a new deadline of the 8th of May. John will keep us posted.

C. Future Meeting Dates:

- Our future 2012 meetings dates are: April 26, June 14th, August 16, October 18, and December 20 – 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Room.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m. by Cris Williams. Eddie shared a closing prayer.

Minutes respectively submitted by Julie Chatfield