

Organization and Administration of the Local United Methodist Church by Joyce Hillis Orem

Our church has its own terminology which can be confusing to our new members and attendees. Single Board Governance, Church Council, Administrative Board, Council on Ministries, Core Ministry, Ministry teams, Town Hall meetings, Charge Conference, and the list goes on and on.

The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016, is revised every four years after General Conference meets. According to the *Discipline*, under (paragraph) ¶ 202. *The Function of the Local Church*, "...the local church is to minister to persons in the community where the church is located, to provide appropriate training and nurture to all, to cooperate in ministry with other local churches, to defend God's creation and live as an ecologically responsible community, and to participate in the worldwide mission of the church, as minimal expectations of an authentic church" (pages 147 and 148).

¶ 244. *Organization* - "The basic organizational plan for the local church shall include provision for the following units: a charge conference, a church council, a committee on pastor-parish relations, a board of trustees, a committee on finance, a committee on nominations and leadership development, and such other elected leaders, commissions, councils, committees, and task forces as the charge conference may determine" (page 172).

The charge conference is "...the basic unit in the connectional system of The United Methodist Church..." and "shall meet annually..." (pages 173 and 174). "The primary responsibilities of the charge conference in the annual meeting shall be to review and evaluate the total mission and ministry of the church...receive reports, and adopt objectives and goals recommended by the church council..." (page 175). At the Rupert United Methodist Church, this meeting occurred on November 4 of this year and was called a Town Hall meeting. The church council presented the review of the year, along with the compensation package, and other items. Several members traveled to Kimberly to meet with the District Superintendent, Karen Hernandez, and presented the reports the conference requires of each church.

In ¶ 252, the purpose of the Church Council "...shall provide for planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach, witness, and resources in the local church. It shall also provide for the administration of its organization and temporal life. It shall envision, plan, implement, and annually evaluate the mission and ministry of the church" (page 182). In the past, the church council was called the Administrative Board, which was in charge of 'doing the business' of the church. Some of the duties of the Church Council include establishing the budget recommended by the finance committee, recommend to the charge conference the salary of the pastor and staff members after the Staff-Pastor-Parish Relations (SPPR) committee has made recommendations, (page 183) and other administrative duties as they arise. Program ministries representatives on the council include SPPR, finance committee, trustees committee, church treasurer, lay member to annual conference, someone from both United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women, and the pastor (page 184).

(Joyce is the new Lay Member to Annual Conference - she will continue this article next month)

Methodist Dimensions

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Volume VI - Issue XII

December 2018



"God Chose Us"

Rev. David Madden

God chose to be born into our world with all of its faults. God chose to come not into a palace, but into the squalor of humanity's injustice. God chose a family that wandered homeless, and was born in a place normally reserved for the animals. God came in the middle of a dying world to bring life, and we are sent into the middle of a dying world to announce God's presence and life. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, says: *"I have come to bring you peace, to teach you to walk in the paths of peace. I have come to teach you what you need to learn most; to be a person of peace"*.

When the angels sang their chorus of joy on the night of Jesus' birth, they were singing a song that would conquer their enemies and overcome the power of death. They were singing a song of hope, of joy, of life, and of peace. The angles were celebrating the greatest event in human history. They were celebrating the time when the Almighty God came down and walked upon this earth.

Brothers and sisters, this is our time. It's our time to reconcile with God, and to reconcile with our neighbors and ourselves through the love of the Christ child. Forgive those that have harmed you, and forgive yourself for the mistakes you have made. And then bring the good news of the birth of the Christ child to all that you encounter. Amen.

Merry Christmas

YOU ARE INVITED

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

PRESENTED BY
THE AF SHARPS
(American Falls Community Choir)

DIRECTED BY DAN BOWMAN
Accompanied by David Bowman

HOSTED BY
RUPERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
605 H STREET - RUPERT
MONDAY, DECEMBER 10th
7:30 p.m.

A LOVE OFFERING FOR THE CHOIR WILL BE ACCEPTED

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

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Office Hours: Mon, Tues,
Wed., 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Food Pantry: Mon. & Wed.,
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Rev. David Madden is in the
office on Mon. thru Thurs.
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and by
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During our Charge Conference time with District Superintendent, Rev. Karen Hernandez, she really emphasized the Pastor Health/Wellness Agreement.

The intention of this agreement is to emphasize actions that enhance good physical and mental health and promote overall wellness, always making adjustments for emergencies and unusual situations.

This is a 13 point "I agree to . . .". Among the 13 points, what Rev. Hernandez stressed the most was #1 & #10 - "I agree to set and advertise a weekly day off, utilizing that day off for personal rest and fulfillment", and, "I will encourage others to save non-critical items for scheduled business hours, unless I initiate the contact. I will encourage notification for emergencies such as serious illnesses, hospital occupancy, and church family deaths on the phone recording device or by personal contact."

In return, there is a 7 point church "We agree . . .", response. #1 says, "We agree to encourage & support the pastor in scheduling vacation time, attending training, arranging time for continuing education, and allowing for personal time", and #2, "We will be supportive for the required time needed for study, research, and preparation for the weekly Sunday service".

With these agreements in mind, we are publishing that the pastor's chosen day off, with no interruptions, except emergencies as listed above, is every Friday, and that Saturday, although not a day off, is the day that most preparation for the weekly sermon takes place.

You all know that most pastors we will have, and especially our current pastor, who is as friendly as a puppy, would be available at any time you called for a favor, or just to talk, or who knows what. Please give him the respect of having Fridays completely for himself, and be considerate of his Saturday sermon preparation. Of course, keep in mind that emergencies happen unexpectedly anytime.



We plan again this Christmas to obtain a "Christmas Family" from the school district. We hope that you participate in buying gifts for this family. As soon as we have the details, we will pass on the information on ages, girl or boy, and sizes. We are also collecting winter outerwear to give to St. Nicholas Catholic Church for distribution to those in need. Bring items to the office. Thanks.

Thank You!

(messages shared by Jack & Mary Zarybnisky for socks & underwear donated by RUMC)

Please accept my sincere thanks on behalf of the entire Hope House Family for your kind and very generous gift. Your gift and the hard work and loving care it represents has made a real difference in the lives of all of at Hope House. We thank God for the wonderful blessing that you are to all of us and we thank you for your thoughtfulness, love and generosity. May God richly bless you.

Thank you so much for your in-kind donation of all the underwear. We appreciate you so much! This is truly a blessing for you to help us in this way! Valley House is a private, non-profit homeless shelter whose mission is to help people regain self-sufficiency. Valley House has been in operation for 22 years in the Magic Valley. We've assisted hundreds of homeless families and individuals in gaining employment and permanent housing. Valley House depends entirely upon friends and businesses like you to help provide the resources needed to assure a better future for our clients. Thank you and God bless.



Lucille Vaughn, on right, of Thrivent Financial, and Jeanne Lappin, representing Trinity Lutheran Church, partnered to gather food for Open Hearts Pantry. If they gathered 500 items, Thrivent will send us \$500. They did! Thank you both. What a partnership!

Abundant Health

One of our newest Ministry Teams to form is called Abundant Health. The purpose is to promote health of mind, body and spirit within our congregation, our community and our pastor. Those serving on this team are, Cheryl Juntunen, Joanne Clark, Lori Johnson, Sherrie Maloney and Tamera Wilkinson.

There is no date set yet, but here is the plan for the first Abundant Health event. It is called Senior FIT AND FALL PROOF™ Program, through the South Central Public Health District. Once started this will be a once a week class held here at the church. This exercise program is for individuals that want to improve their balance, strength, and mobility; the exercises are low-impact and can be done standing or while sitting in a chair. All classes are free.

1 in 3 adults over 65 falls each year. Reduce your risk of falling with these simple steps:

- Begin an exercise program
- Have your doctor review your prescriptions and/or over-the-counter medications
- Get an annual eye check-up
- Wear non-slip shoes with soles that are sturdy and not too thick
- Make sure your home is fall proof.

Is your home fall proof?

- All handrails are not broken & are securely fastened
- Remove small throw rugs
- Lamp, extension & phone cords are safely tucked away from walkways
- Grab bars are securely installed
- Non-slip strips are installed in bath/shower
- Often used items are easy to reach
- Well-lit hallways, bedrooms, bathrooms & stairways - easy accessible light switches and/or nightlights
- Outside lighting is working in entryways and walk areas

Please watch for up-dates on this program and consider joining when it begins.

WITH AN OPEN HEART

This is a busy time for Open Hearts Food Pantry! The Monday before Thanksgiving we gave out 43 boxes of food. That was a big day. Here is some of what has been happening with the food pantry.

- Thanks to Cheryl Juntunen's grant writing skills, we have been awarded a \$2,696 grant from Idaho Food Bank for the purchase of a new commercial style refrigerator, and two pallets of milk from Gossner's. The refrigerator has been ordered from Sears.
- Eat Smart Idaho - Once a month a representative from the University of Idaho Extension office offers free nutrition classes to recipients of our food boxes. They will be meeting in our Fellowship Hall the first Monday of every month from Jan. to July.
- Idaho Hunters Feeding the Hungry - This is a 501(c) (3) Corp., 100% funded by hunters. Their mission is to transform wild big game meat into nutritious food for the hungry. Our pantry is connected to them through Idaho Food Bank. Here is how it works: Hunters purchase licenses and tags, harvest big game, and donate extra meat to cooperating meat processors. Meat Processors process meat, call local IHFH food bank or pantry for pick up, and invoice IHFH for processing. Food banks and pantries distribute meat to the local families that are food insecure. If any of our hunters are interested in helping with this program, please see Cheryl Juntunen, or the office for particulars.
- 100 Christmas Food Boxes - We will give these out on Sat. Dec. 15, from 9 a.m. to Noon. This is on a first come, first served basis. Those who have made this possible: RUMC (you are all the best), Paul UMC, St. Matthew's Episcopal, Trinity Lutheran with Lucille Vaughn & Thrivent Financial, American Legion, Area Boy Scouts, Cynthia Freeman, Kat Country FM Radio & Stokes, Ore-Idaho Foods, High Desert, Idaho Food Bank & Harper's Bread. Thank you for your support!