

Westminster Diaconate Board Meeting Minutes June 10, 2007

Attending: Bill Hatch, Bill Burig, Jim Joseph, Rick Overholt, Bill McAvoy, Lynn Chesnut, Sharon Barnes, Duck Rufty, Bruce Capehart, Holly Borden, Walt Beckwith, Nancy Safrit, Anne Vann, Michael Reich, Betty Berghaus, Sally Keener

Michael called the meeting to order.

Devotions led by Betty dealt with the question, "What is a Christian?" Sharing from excerpts from Mother Theresa's *In Her Own Words*, Betty highlighted that a Christian is someone who gives his best, not his leftovers, and gives until it hurts. She read from the story of the laborers in the vineyard in Matthew 20, which tells how the last shall be first and teaches not to be envious of other's fortunes or judgmental about generosity. She closed with two stories from *In Her Own Words*, which told of selfless giving. The business of deacons is also selfless giving. She ended the devotional with a prayer.

Concerns/Celebrations:

Celebrations were shared for Bill McAvoy's son who was married last week and for the many seniors who graduated this week and, partly thanks to Project Graduation, had a safe weekend. Other happy news is that Campbell will become a citizen this week; Sharon's son is in an apartment and doing well; and Alex Barnes is doing better. Concerns were shared for some of the children in the WPC family - Megan Pottenger who broke her foot, and baby Henry McLaughlin who had eye surgery last week. Jonathan Burig, one of our big kids and graduates will have nasal surgery this Wednesday. Adults in our thoughts and prayers include David Smith who is in radioactive treatments this week after thyroid surgery; Sharon's stepson who will go into hospice care for his kidney cancer (he has a two year old daughter); Walt Beckwith and his family who are celebrating the life of Walt's mother.

Approval of Minutes: The May minutes were approved as submitted.

Diaconate Officer Elections:

Walt Beckwith was elected as **moderator**; **Bill Hatch** was elected as **co-moderator**, and **Anne Vann** was elected **clerk**. Congratulations Walt, Bill and Anne, and thanks from all of us for stepping up to these roles of responsibility!

Reminder the Budget Meeting July 15: Local Missions has met to organize their requests for budget items based on both a flat budget and an expanded budget. There was discussion of responding to interest from the deacons and the congregation to include environmental agencies in their budget, a nice partner with the diaconate and churchwide support of Habitat's green project. Scotti is doing more research on various possibilities and asks anyone with information or a request to contact her.

End of Year Party will be at Michael's home and the date chosen will be August 25th at 6:00pm. The Reichs will provide the main course and refreshments, and deacons are asked to bring a side dish or dessert.

Old Business:

At an earlier meeting we discussed the Habitat green project. There has been a drive for the \$10,000 for WPC's share in this multi-church project. Bill McAvoy will find out how the donations and pledges are doing and at the July meeting we will consider a gift from the diaconate to cover any shortfall. This will be the first green house project in NC and with a new partner, the houses will become cost effective immediately.

It was decided to pay the youth who showed up to babysit for the Deacon's Workday. Even though there was little to do, they came as promised ready to serve. It was voted to pay \$125 for their service, which will go to the Mexico Mission team.

It was confirmed that the diaconate will donate \$500 to the IHN golf tournament fund-raiser, as discussed last month.

New Business:

Anne V. asked for feedback for the Transition Committee as it documents an organizational chart of who does what at church. She asked how we felt the new committee structure functioned this year. Reflective comments included:

- A Session liaison is helpful **if** the elder is passionate about the committee's work and actually participates; the insights and historical knowledge they often bring to the committee can be very helpful.
- Using committee structure to involve a wider number of people from the congregation has been somewhat successful; some committees have added significant numbers of members from the general congregation and others less so, but there was support for the premise of including others so the work of the church is shared.
- The committee structure has given much clearer definition to the work of the diaconate and clarified lines of responsibility; it has been especially helpful to the Local Missions Committee, which has such a large scope of responsibility, by dividing the work and establishing subcommittee chairs.
- Committee structure has provided better oversight and budget responsibility for the work of the diaconate.
- Committee structure made our roles more clear and established the work of the church as defined by the work, not the person.

Bill McAvoy reminded us that Rally Day and Pig Pickin' will be September 9th. He is working with Ashley Everly and others to do the cooking rather than have the major expense of catering that we incurred last year.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm

Next Meeting: Sunday, July 15 beginning at 5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted: Sally Keener, clerk