

The February 20th 2018 Administrative Council Meeting was attended by: John Strange, Jon Kelly, Sherwin Dent, Sherry Robertson, Carl Knapp, Rhonda Linsley, Julie Burdin, Debbie Baker, Wilma Maddox, Meghan Riegerix, and Roger Smith.

Pastor Carl opened the meeting with a devotion focused on the price of Christianity. He asked how Macon UMC makes disciples of Christ. Attendees felt it was through Sunday school, Logos and leadership development. Next month, the focus of the devotion will be on the results of discipleship.

Next, he outlined the plan for council meetings through 2018. Every other meeting will have a financial focus, including a review of the treasurer's report and a discussion of spending, giving and stewardship. The Committee on Finance should attend. Current members include: Scott Nelson, Carl Knapp, Jon Kelly, Julie Burdin, Ellen Gehringer, Betty Fink, Debbie Baker, Sherwin Dent, Sharon Trumper, Shari Dye, Wanda Grimm, Sheila Petre and Bobbi Truitt. The next financial meeting will be the 3rd Tuesday in March. Alternate month meetings will include ministry team leaders. The Ad Council will likely meet 10 of 12 months this year.

The bulk of the meeting focused on 4 goals identified during the Leader's Retreat held in January. The first was to emphasize and encourage prayer. Pastor Carl reviewed the role of the prayer chair as a visual reminder to be actively praying for the church. He identified those who have taken turns in the chair in service or before services in the library as Scott Burdin, Rhonda Smith, Roscoe Rucker and Pastor Meghan. Rhonda Smith reminded the church of the importance of this specific prayer in services this past Sunday. The group discussed the possible development of a prayer chair schedule to foster a greater sense of team. Carl also encouraged "on the spot" prayer (inside and outside the church) for those requesting prayer. The council discussed including specifics in the pastoral prayer following joys and concerns.

Another goal set was to include nearly monthly children's specials during services. The next will take place this Sunday. Rhonda has another planned on Easter Sunday and in May. She is sending notifications to parents the evening before. Regular children's specials may boost attendance and help children develop worship leadership skills.

Small group development and maintenance was another focus from the leader's retreat with a Lenten kick-off of multiple groups using the same Living the 5 curricula. Currently, 3 groups are meeting Sunday mornings, Pastor Carl is leading a noon on Tuesday group, a women's group is meeting on Thursday evenings and a Sunday night group is pending. Pastors Carl and Meghan personally contacted group leaders and participants.

The 4th focus was the re-development of a Congregational Care Team. Roger reported on a successful and well attended day of fellowship at the Congregational Care Fair and also submitted a written report of the group's first meeting. The next meeting is tomorrow evening after Logos. The Ad Council encouraged the formal development of a ministry team with passionate leadership. We also emphasized components such as shepherding, meal provision, visitation, grief support and assisting with transportation. Pastor Carl identified 3 opportunities for congregational care including how we connect with new attenders, care within our current congregation including fellowship and "back door" follow up including that for our elderly members.

Jon provided a verbal Trustees Report – he indicated the kitchen appliances are all working and the old appliances are still being stored until a decision about their disposition is reached. They are also working on security plans for the church including policies/plans for: inclement weather/tornados, fire, medical emergencies and an intruder plan.

Sherry reminded the Council of upcoming service opportunities including the Foster and Adoptive Skating party this Sunday, the pending craft show and rummage sale the Henderson Settlement mission trip in July. The deadline for mission trip sign up is in mid-March.

Rhonda reported she had been contacted by parents about recurrent lice. She will be trash bagging kids' coats and backpacks for Logos for now.

Wilma announced 2 scholarships had been approved.

Meghan reported that she is currently preparing for the Youth Rally and plans a meeting to discuss strategies for summer youth group and mentor recruitment.

Pastor Carl ended the meeting with prayer.

Submitted by Julie Burdin