

WESLEY CHURCH SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 15, 2010

Wesley United Methodist Church • 1212 West Calhoun Street •
Macomb, Illinois, 61455 • 833-2153

▪ **Committee Contact Information:**

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Lembke, Becky	becky@macombwesleyumc.com	833-2153 837-5250	1209 W Adams
Nelson, Sandra	sa-nelson@wiu.edu	833-5065	2121 Maple Ave.
Troyer, Mary Ann	maudy@logonix.net	833-1036	10860 E 950 th St.
Walker, Dana		833-3268	315 N Madison St.

Present: Laurie Black, John Carter, Kathy Fischer, Becky Lembke, Mary Ann Troyer.
Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair John Carter.

January Minutes: The motion was made and seconded (Dana, Laurie) to approve the minutes from the January meeting with two corrections: Dana's contact information was inadvertently deleted from the membership table; and the correct Food Pantry hours are M-Th from 1:15 – 4:00 pm and Friday from 1:10 – 3:00 pm. Motion carried.

Food Pantry Update – Dana

- January was a busy month. They have just over \$100,000 for a budget this year. They have a freezer now, so that allows storage of meat. They picked up some food from a food bank in Peoria (free of charge), which was a nice addition to what is collected locally. Our church had two new volunteers in January.
- Dana answered additional questions: They serve an average of 20 households a day. Families can only come once a month. The maximum amount of a food voucher for a family is \$25. Two volunteers have to work each shift. If the Food Pantry is lacking volunteers for a particular day, they have to close.
- To volunteer, a member can contact our church office. He/she is then put in touch with Bob Bowen, who does an orientation. The volunteer then works a couple of times to see if s/he likes it – before a commitment needs to be made.

- **“Shop and Share” program at HyVee, March 19, 20, and 21:** If a customer presents a coupon with their purchase, HyVee will donate 5% of the order to the Food Pantry. Dana has the coupons, which Becky will have photocopied and placed in the March newsletter. They will also be placed in the church bulletin and announced in church on March 7th.

Related Discussion, regarding serving the poor in our community:

- Becky: There are still job opportunities with the Census. If we know of anyone needing work, we can tell them to call the church office for information on how to apply.
- Becky and Dana: Loaves and Fishes is still doing loans. Dwayne Furman and David Helm are serving as financial counselors.
- Laurie asked about Faith Encounter: Do people know they can attend this weekly event to get a hot meal? There was general agreement on the part of the committee that this is an excellent idea. Becky thinks there would be adequate food for additional participants. How can we get the word out? Dana said that we could post a notice at the Food Pantry. Dana will propose this at their next board meeting (March 8), for their approval. If approved, he will post the notice. John drafted a notice and the committee members approved.
- Feed the Children program: John reviewed this program for the benefit of new committee members. It was initiated last year by Dr. Espanbadi, a professor at WIU. Provides sack lunches for kids to take home on weekends. Currently serving 65 kids (through Armark). Kids are identified by the schools, through the free/reduced lunch program. Wesley Church contributes \$2,000 to this program last year.

John reminded committee members that if there are any social concerns issues that we become aware of, we should be sure to announce them during our meetings.

Parish Nurse Program, Progress Report:

- Kathy stated that the church Finance Committee meets tomorrow night, and asked if we should make them aware of our intent to ask for start-up funds. Becky said that no decisions will be made until March (or later), so we have some time to draft a proposal. She also said that the proposal goes directly to the Trustees. John suggested \$2,500 as a rough estimate of what we would need for start-up costs (for supplies and equipment, publicity, etc.). As soon as we ascertain what is needed for a proposal, the subcommittee will develop it (John, Sandra, Mary Ann, and Kathy).

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

NEXT MEETING: March 22, 5:45 pm.

(We will meet a week late due to Spring Break.)

(Note the change in time, in order to accommodate the most members.)