

Agenda for Ad Council  
Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Call to order  
Prayer  
Approved minutes from last meeting (consent agenda)  
Announcements: New Epworth Calendar on [www.epworth-okc.org](http://www.epworth-okc.org)

Workgroup Reports:

Shared Vision: Monica Swink – Action required  
Building: Alan Logan  
Spiritual Development and Education: Debbie Logue  
All-Inclusive membership: Hank Blythe  
Workgroups establish measureable goals by April meeting – action required

Committee Reports:

Worship Committee: Jim Gragg  
Mission Committee: Virgil Stout  
Care Ministry: Jim Houk  
Pastor's Report: Pastor Sherron  
Adult Ministries:  
Children Ministries  
    Youth: Jessica Julian  
Lay Member/RMN: Monica Swink  
Welcoming and Nurturing:  
Community life: Jonathan Lee  
Restaurantoring: Jim and Elaine Palmer  
Community Garden: Michele Pitt  
Positive Tomorrows: Lee Reid and Sue Hill  
Lay Leader: Jim Palmer  
Communications: Debbie Teel

Administrative Reports

Finance Committee  
Staff/Parish  
Board of Trustees

Prayer

Adjourn

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Positive Tomorrows Report by Lee Reid

The Board of Directors met on Friday January 16, 2009

Agenda:

Financial Report: Questions asked and responded to by Monica Swink.

Approval of December meeting minutes.

Discussion of January 17th Event.

Directors Report: They are having problems with the plumbing, backups are happening in a number of their stools. Their plumber scoped their line and that is clear, so it may be the main line. They are working on resolving this asap.

The next meeting will be held on February 20th, 2009.

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Finance Committee Meeting Minutes  
Monday, January 12, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm. Present were the following committee members:

Jaida Hamilton  
Cheryl Burnett  
Monica Swink  
Talitha Glosemeyer  
Sherron Hughes-Tremper  
Randy Wicklunc  
Elaine Gragg

The minutes from the November meeting were read from the computer by Cheryl Burnett and approved as reported.

It was decided to have our meetings on the second Monday of the month at 7:00. Jonathan Lee will be recording secretary. Our next meeting will be February 9.

Randy reviewed the December 2008 financial statements. During the month of December, giving was reported as just under \$18,000 for the month with \$6000 of that as a designated gift. There were no unusual expenses in the month of December. The final bill for 2008 insurance due in November remains unpaid. District Apportionments and the "mandatory" apportionments were paid in full for 2008, with the remaining \$23,000 paid at only \$11,000. Disappointment in this lack of 100% payment and ideas for improvement for 2009 was discussed.

It was agreed that Talitha and Cheryl will write a letter explaining the need for additional giving which will be distributed in 3 separate ways

1. by email to the email list
2. by posting on the Web site
3. by mail to the newsletter mailing list

Talitha also agreed to make a plea to the committees of the church, to be leaders in pledging and paying those pledges and to reduce spending as much as possible. Randy will re-format the information placed in the budget each week so that non-accountants might more easily understand the lack of funds.

Statements of giving will be distributed no later than January 25, with a goal of distributing on January 18. For 2009, we had pledges of approximately \$84,000 for a budget of approximately \$194,000, which is approximately 50% of the budget. In prior years, pledges have come in at approximately 75% of budget.

Cheryl announced that the audit for the year ended 6/30/07 and 6/30/08 will begin on Saturday at 1:00 pm and Randy will help pull files for the team auditing.

Cheryl introduced a plan to raise funds by asking church members and other groups to donate used cell phones. Pace-Butler, in Edmond, will pay from \$2.00 to \$50.00 per phone to the designated nonprofit for used cell phones.

New Business: Trustees have agreed to release the \$1000 designated for the Jetts program to the general fund to be used for upkeep and maintenance on the building. Sarah will be checking on phone service to see if Cox would be cheaper for phone and internet than AT&T.

Harold Swink and Jim Gragg requested Finance Committee approval to solicit funds to add projectors for the computer to the Chapel for Wednesday night Chapel service. The funds have been solicited from members who have agreed these funds will not reduce their gifts to the general fund. The approval was granted with one abstention – Monica Swink.

Repair projects were briefly discussed, including the falling steeple and the security systems needs.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Sincerely,

Monica Swink.

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Epworth United Methodist Church  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
January 18, 2009

In Attendance

Hank Blythe, Alan Logan, Pastor Sherron Hughes-Tremper, Hank Birkner, Sara Hathaway,  
Randall Cook, Ed Logan and Talitha Glossmeyer.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order and Pastor Sherron opened the meeting in prayer.

#### Approval of Minutes of the December Meeting

Minutes for the meeting were presented to the committee on a CD along with the minutes of the last three years.

#### Old Business

Steeple Talitha has filed a claim with the insurance company and the adjuster Leonard Lipps will be calling for an appointment to come out and assess the damage.

Handicap Ramp on North Entrance – waiting on bid from Al Morgan.

Heating Several attempts have been made to contact Unitemp in regards to the heater in the parlor/choir room and the sanctuary without any success, Sara Hathaway give them another call and try to find out what the hold up is. Randy Wicklund has made a suggestion that we put digital programmable thermostats in the basement (fellowship hall and clinic) and in the chapel as people are forgetting to turn off or turn down the heat when they are done using the room and this should help control the expense of the large heating bill that we receive. Hank Blythe will call Al Morgan or Dahlia Puente to install the thermostats. Finance office needs a vent cover and Alan Logan will look into getting a vent cover this week. Thrift shop heater needs to be checked to see if the pilot light is on and if that is why the heater is not working.

Repair and Maintenance has a balance of \$529 in the account.

Work Day It has been suggested before that once a month we have a work day to day minor repairs and cleaning around the church several days have been suggested but not determined. It has also been suggested that we do a mission trip for our own church and get some much needed work done on the church.

#### New Business

Chair persons Hank Blythe was nominated for chair of trustees, Hank Birkner made a motion that we accept Hank Blythe as chair of Trustees and the motion was seconded and approved. Congratulations Hank Blythe on accepting this position. Alan Logan has accepted the position of co-chair. Hank Blythe will be representing Trustees at the Finance meetings.

Finance Report Talitha presented the report from Finance of the financial deficit of the church and she will be sending out a letter to the congregation and she will be following up with information every couple of weeks of our financial situation.

- Keys John Calhoun, Debbie Logue, and Kathy Brown have turned in their church keys and keys to the main entrance have been given to Randall Cook and Hank Birkner.
- Inventory Thursday January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30pm, Trustees will meet and do a walk through of the building to familiarize the committee of the building and things that need to be done. Hank Blythe will bring his camera and do a picture inventory of the building.
- Security Alan Logan is working with Allied Protection getting bids for a new security system.  
He has two bids, first bid adding three motion detectors to the existing system and the second bid replacing the system with a wireless system. He is waiting on additional information on a bid to add a security camera and a card key door lock system replacing the old key system. Maurice Rogan a long time employee of Allied and a member of Epworth is making it able for us to get a huge discount on this service.
- Phone Alan Logan is working on getting a quote from Cox Business for internet and phone service. Our existing phone service is running us over \$200 a month and with getting a lower price will make the upgrade to the new security system not cost us any additional monies.
- Bathroom The bathroom by the church offices leaks and the trap on the sink needs to be replaced. Sara Hathaway will contact Al Morgan to repair this problem.
- Grants Hank Blythe has information on obtaining grants to help us with our church, we will work on trying to obtain any grant that we can qualify for. (challenge grant at [coolcongregations.com](http://coolcongregations.com) and energy savers)

MOTION to adjourn made and second and approved. Next scheduled meeting February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

Submitted by,  
Sara Hathaway

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Jim Houk New Year's Report

Happy New Year to all members and friends of Epworth! I thought I'd take this mark in

time, as we begin a new calendar year to update you about the ministry of care we have offered through Epworth since March 9, 2008. Following an orientation and training session of 23 persons, we immediately began finding opportunity to be of service.

I'd also like to utilize this report to solicit your participation in this growing and much needed lay ministry, designed to assist the ordained ministry in providing care to our members and friends.

The best way I know to share with you the character of this ministry is to tell you of some of what we have done. We have served 20 individuals with either short term or long term care depending upon their need. One person we cared for for over 7 months through various surgeries, through a diagnosis of terminal and through his funeral. Some persons are assign a team of up to 5 or 6 persons, others require only one or two persons. Some require near daily care (preparing and delivering meals, doing household chores, and just being "present" for comfort and support). One who was bedridden with back condition we even served "breakfast in bed" until she was able to get up. Kind of dangerous for me to advertise this on New Year's morning. I might get lots of calls. For others we provide care and visitation while they are the hospital and a few days of assistance while they readjust to and are able to care for themselves in their own home. Still others are mostly homebound and we make an effort to keep the "community" connection for them by visitation and recognizing important days and occasions for them. One who spent 7 weeks in the hospital and has now been rehabilitating at home for 10 weeks with care being provided on a 24 seven basis by a family member, we provide 4 or 5 hours of relief once a week so the care giver can leave for grocery shopping and taking care of other business. For others just help with transportation for church, doctor's appointments, shopping and/or pharmacy meets their needs. Other occasions for which we are available are traumatic occurrences which disrupt life's routine and in which the care and presence of a friend would be welcome. While individual and or family counseling is not within our abilities, on a few occasions just having us as a third party present to facilitate communication has been beneficial to relationships and or in discussing difficult to talk about subjects between family members.

We have been told by some for whom we have provided care that we are more attentive and helpful even than their own family members who live in the community. Maybe that is part of the reason we are know as a "family" church.

We have persons who we recognize are not necessarily in need of or would be open to "being helped" so informally there are "friends" who keep regular contact and are always available to befriend them. Additionally, we have some occasions where assistance is needed and gets taken care of by some of our kind members who are able to do a once in a while deed. i. e. Finding a refrigerator for one of our people who was in need and didn't have resources.

We most usually learn of needs by a phone call that someone is ill and/or entering the hospital. Sometimes an announcement in worship or a prayer request will alert us to a need. If you or someone you know is in need, please contact us. We are really disappointed upon learning that someone has been out of worship for a few weeks because they were ill at home or even in the hospital without our knowledge. Usually I or a representative of our ministry will be present at the hospital to express our care and prayer for the patient prior to surgery, sit with the family during surgery to be of support and encouragement, then maintain contact thorough the hospital stay to learn of anticipated ways in which we might assist follow up care in the home.

Since our membership is scattered all the way from Wellston (about 45 miles north east of the church) to Norman (about 30 miles south east of the church) we are always in need of volunteers in all directions from the church. This is a volunteer effort. The volunteers are not provided any reimbursement for their expense, we like to try to match those with need with someone who lives as nearby as possible. If by your learning about the character of this ministry you feel led to participate with us, we'd welcome you. Please contact the church office or myself. Please help us grow this much needed ministry.

Sincerely,

Jim Hook, Director of Care Ministry  
945-0432

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#### Epworth Building Taskforce Report

The Epworth Building Taskforce has primarily been focused on finding funding to replace the roof over the original building. There are a few grants for which we are evaluating our eligibility to make application. One of the grants we were particularly interested in had a deadline in January. We didn't feel like we were adequately prepared to complete the application, so we are now focused on its next deadline, which is in June 2009. In the meantime, our secondary focus is identifying smaller projects around the church building that can be accomplished with some organized workdays. The taskforce has renewed its efforts in finding funding for various renovation efforts throughout the building.

Alan Logan, Spokesperson  
Epworth Building Taskforce

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**Visioning Task Force  
Report to Administrative Council  
Epworth UMC**

Formed at the visioning retreat in September, this task force has been focused on reviewing our current vision and mission statements and suggesting changes in these statements, based our church and its mission today. We have also looked at ways to communicate that vision into all we do as a church.

**Actions Requested:**

- 1. We move that the Ad Council accept a new mission and vision statement, compiled by the Visioning Task Force, communicated to the church at large in a variety of ways for suggestions, and finally formatted below.**
- 2. We move that the Ad Council refer our suggestions for plans to move forward to the appropriate committees for approval and implementation. Those suggestions are listed on the attached sheet.**

**Discussion:**

Our task from the group who met for a visioning retreat in September, 2009, was to create:

A **Shared Vision** that permeates all that we do and is communicated well.

The committee consists of Thad Burr, Kathy Brown, Steven Carey, Donna Cloud, Connie English, Garrett Johnson, and Monica Swink.

We believe that having a shared vision, and mission statement will help focus our efforts as a church and keep our message of reconciliation and welcome consistent. Using the mission statement and vision statement as a guide for all that we do, all our actions, all our existing ministries and all our new ministries yet to be determined will unite us rather than scatter us and give us a united identity as a church. Please accept this discussion of our requested actions.

## Action One:

We have met several times and worked on the vision and mission statement that follows. The draft statements were circulated to the members of Epworth Church and suggestions and comments solicited by email, by newsletter and by insets in each pew beginning in November 2008. Using those suggestions for editing, the draft before you today is our best effort to verbalize the tremendous mission of Epworth United Methodist Church. Therefore:

**We move that the Ad Council accept a new mission and vision statement, compiled by the Visioning Task Force, communicated to the church at large in a variety of ways for suggestions, and finally formatted as follows:**

### Mission Statement

As growing disciples of Christ, we strive to transform the world by throwing open our hearts, our minds and our doors to all God's people. All are welcome here...ALL MEANS ALL!

### Vision Statement

Epworth United Methodist Church is a faithful, diverse Christian Community dedicated to the reconciling ministries of Jesus.

Through our traditions of:

- Spirit-filled worship;
- Justice seeking mission and service;
- Purposeful faith and spiritual development;
- Radical, inclusive hospitality; &
- Intentional care and nurture of our church family, our community and the world;

WE seek to embody the hands of Christ and welcome ALL to JOIN OUR JOURNEY.

## Action Two

We also see our task to compile a plan of communication of that mission and vision. We see implementation as a task for all committees and groups within the church and we have compiled a list of suggestions for several standing committees.

**We move that the Ad Council refer our suggestions for plans to move forward to the appropriate committees for approval and implementation. Those suggestions follow:**

### Ad Council

1. Adopt a procedure to open each meeting with a reading of the vision and mission statements.
  2. Encourage committees and other groups to incorporate the vision and mission as part of their work.
  3. Ad Council Meeting agenda to follow the key items listed in the vision statement with reports from various groups under the appropriate category. This will put the administrative committees last in the agenda. (See attached suggested agenda format)
- c. Classen 10-Penn,
  - d. City Sentinel,
  - e. Fridays
5. OCU
  6. Peace House
  7. Gazette
- Other avenues:
1. RMN newsletter
  2. Hand outs with watermarked building to hand out, post on bulletin boards, etc.

Also, we would like to suggest work on a consistent LOGO – developing one logo for all communications including stationary (incorporate some part of RMN logo?), but with the mission and vision statements in mind.

### Worship Committee:

Request both statements to be printed on the face of the bulletin each week.

### Trustees:

Building: Signs in front to advertise both statements.

### Communications Committee:

Advance the mission using:

Newspapers:

1. CONTACT – Joe Harris;
2. Skyline newsletter (because of Jetts program)
3. Positive Tomorrows newsletter
4. Neighborhood papers –
  - a. Gatewood,
  - b. Mesta Park,

### Visioning Task Force:

1. Pews – laminated statements in each pew.
2. Signs with both in front of all meeting rooms, in the front lobby, nicely framed.
3. Business cards for all members with mission and vision statements on front and/or back.

## **Suggested Agenda for Ad Council**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Call to order  
Prayer  
Read Mission Statement and Vision Statement  
Approved minutes from last meeting

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Spirit-filled Worship**

Worship Committee

#### **Justice Seeking mission and service**

Mission Committee

#### **Purposeful faith and spiritual development**

Pastor's Report  
Adult Ministries  
Children Ministries  
Youth

#### **Radical, Inclusive Hospitality**

Lay Member/RMN  
Welcoming and Nurturing

#### **Intentional care and nurture of our church family, our community and the world:**

Community life  
Restaurantoring  
Community Garden  
Positive Tomorrows  
Lay Leader

### **Administrative Reports**

Finance Committee  
Staff/Parish  
Board of Trustees

Prayer  
Adjourn

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Report of the Worship Committee  
Epworth United Methodist Church  
January 19, 2009  
Submitted by Jim Gragg, Chair

The Worship Committee last met in November to make plans for the Advent and Christmas Seasons. As a result of that meeting and working with Pastor Sherron efforts

were coordinated to decorate the sanctuary, provide appropriate worship centers and secure volunteers to light the candles in the Advent wreath.

The committee evaluated the Sunday morning and Wednesday evening worship services. It is felt that these services are well planned and conducted and are experienced by the congregation in a positive way. A decision was made to officially set the time for the Sunday worship at one hour and fifteen minutes, beginning at 10:45 and concluding at noon. Because the service moves well and fits comfortably into that time period it was felt unnecessary to modify it to fit a shorter time.

The decision was made to provide coffee and sweets before Sunday worship. Garrett Johnston volunteered to make the coffee each week and other volunteers have been signing up to provide donuts or sweet breads on specific Sundays.

As a result of discussion in the Worship Committee some improvements are being made to better facilitate the Wednesday evening chapel service. A smaller worship center table has been created by Brad Riggins that allows for more space in the center of the chapel so worship leaders and worshippers may more easily move about. To better facilitate the worship in the round contributions have been received to provide two permanently mounted projectors for displaying hymn texts and pictures on two walls.

We celebrate the dramatic improvement in the choir room as the result of extensive renovation. This took place thanks to a major volunteer effort spearheaded by Alan Logan.

The bell choir has been resurrected with a newly acquired set of bells. The choir made its début providing pre-service music on Christmas Eve.

The committee will be meeting soon to begin planning for the Lenten and Easter seasons.

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## PASTOR'S REPORT

As I am in charge of Word, Sacrament and Order, I am happy to say that I have preached most sermons this last year. We have had some visitors from VIM and the Wesley Foundation, hopefully next year there will be more visitors so that more people understand where our apportionments go. I am disappointed we didn't pay our apportionments in full this year but I do not think that this "discredits" our witness in any way, since we ourselves are supporting so many outreaches to the community: Clinic, Hispanic congregation, Pos. Tomorrows, NSO, Jets, Cross Fire Youth, Law Clinic, Peace Pilgrims, Community Volunteers and our own meetings. We need to remember that our building that we work so hard to keep functioning is in itself the "mission" that provides space for so much mission to happen

As we begin this New Year and new leadership in Ad Council I am excited for all the possibilities. In my sermon I emphasized a strategy for the church to continue to do some serious thinking about stewardship and on bringing in new members. "Believe, Belong, and Become".

This past year we have baptized 2 adults and two children and one youth. We had 4 youth join our church. Our youth group-Cross Fire- meets regularly on Wednesday evenings after the dinner and we have anywhere from 6-12. This last week the group's Bible study was deeper and better than it has been before. One youth copied down some of the scripture to take to a friend who had told him that day that she had been tested and was HIV positive. This outreach is vital to not only the growth of the church but the reaching out to youth for their complex world with many problems. I ask for your continual prayers for the Cross Fire Youth Group. We have bought hoodies for each regular member of the Youth Group, thanks to good prices from Amy Kelly's company. We have also ordered Bibles for each one and their names will be imprinted. This was from Mardel's. The youth have used donations and their grant to pay for all their expenses.

The Lectionary Study and Spirituality Study have continued throughout the year. There are as many as seven participating in this regularly. This group involves all new members in it except for Margaret Bjorklund. All the others have joined the church in the last three years. This group is poised to grow even some more. It is all women.

For the year 2008 we closed the books with 21 new members, 2 provisional (children) members, and one new clergy affiliate. We still have great needs in providing more for children on Sundays although during the week we have a Jet's program that has 18 more or less in it in the ages of 5 – 9 years old. This Jets program is now under a new leader and is running very smoothly at present. They take care of their own needs and clean up afterwards. I recently was able to give a small bible and little pillow to each child at no cost from the church (they were donated to me by Dr. Betty Zaring of Spencer).

Community Service Volunteers have diminished quite a lot since we do not take felons any longer. Those who do come are here on Saturday mornings and help in and around the clinic, offices, or LeShoppe. Volunteers for LeShoppe are Ray Youngblood and Donnell and they have been doing a wonderful job keeping the shop clean, and orderly. Donations are always appreciated.

There are many requests for "help" but the pastor's discretionary fund is very low at this time. I refer people to Skyline and other agencies and also remind them to come to our clinic for medical care and medicines so they can pay for other bills with the money they save. Most callers are very appreciative of this help. During the Christmas season two families were help immensely by gifts that were given by the congregation, the VA hospital unit, and NSO. The VA Hospital unit did an amazing job helping a family in the Hispanic church during Thanksgiving and Christmas.

A long time visitor had been jailed for 180 days. She has almost completed those days and our church has helped her to keep her sanity by donations that allowed her to buy phone cards, deodorant, shampoo and other necessities while in jail. Some of these donations were directly from me but others also went by and put money on the books. Nita is looking forward to her freedom and beginning life over again. She is anxious to come back to church and express her thanks to all who have helped her—especially the cards and letters and magazines that were mailed to her. She says that she has felt that she "belongs" to Epworth because they have cared during this very difficult time in her life.

We have the sick who have been hospitalized or in need at homes during the past few months. Jim Houk and the Care teams have done a tremendous job in aiding me in the pastoral care ministry at Epworth. Pastor Houk is a pastor with heart and I am indebted to his leadership in this area. If I were a Director of Pastoral Care I would hire him in a minute. The care teams who have gathered under his leadership have been the most amazing example of Christian Love and our church is far and away the best organized to help others in this need.

God is so good to me. Thank you all.

Love and Shalom,

Pastor Sherron

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Report: Lay Leader/RMN  
Monica Swink

1. Annual conference will be held in Oklahoma City from Sunday, May 24 to Thursday, May 28. Opening worship will be at St. Luke's the evening of the 24<sup>th</sup>. Opening worship is usually very inspiring, and I would urge you to attend. We have agreed to hold the Mainstream United Methodist breakfast this year on Tuesday morning. (I think it will be at 7:30.) Elaine Palmer is taking the lead on planning the menu. St. Stephens has agreed to help us. Please plan to be a part of this breakfast – to cook, to serve, to clean up. It will be a great time to be host to the progressive Methodist movement in Oklahoma.
2. Annual Conference will be considering 4 or 5 constitutional amendments this year – results from votes at General Conference 2008. One of these is the amendment that states that anyone may become a member of the Methodist Church upon profession of faith. This is in direct reaction to the case of the gay man who was denied membership in the church in which he had been active. We will be watching these constitutional votes closely throughout the summer months as annual conferences take their votes.
3. We will be celebrating Reconciling Sunday soon at Epworth – perhaps as early as the first of February. I have forwarded the worship materials suggested by RMN to Sherron and the Worship Committee.
4. RMN's Convocation (Convo) will be held this summer over the Labor Day week-end. Watch for information on how to register on the RMN website. Oklahoma's Amy Oden will be the Bible Study leader for the entire week-end. It is always good to be with over 500 Reconciling Methodists from across the country, to worship, learn and fellowship together. This year we will be staying at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, CO. You definitely want to come with us!