

Stewardship Team meeting January 7, 2009

The NCUMC Stewardship Team met at the Methodist Building on January 7, 2009 primarily to review budget requests for 2009 for church year 20011 to be forwarded to Connectional Table. Highlights of the meeting were:

- requests were to begin from a zero base. CF&A guidance was that total approvals should not exceed three percent increase over the previously approved requests for year 2010. These criteria were met.
- Minister's Moving Expense has no increase for 2011 following significant approved increase for 2010.
- Cashar Evans, President Conference Board of Trustees, reported for three successive year no increase has been requested for Past Service Liability Pensions or Conference Claimants-Retiree Insurance. Present estimate is that Pensions Liability will be fully funded sooner than the 2020-21 goal, perhaps as early as 2014-15. Retiree Insurance Liability is not on a track for full funding but a recommendation to do so is likely "down the line."
- Largest percentage increase, 106.86%, requested and approved was for Staff Housing. Previously this item had covered cost of two of four houses. The other two has been funded from supplemental requests and Methodist Foundation. In keeping with Zero Based Budgeting, this item is essentially flat lined for 2011.
- Cashar Evans gave an update on progress of the new United Methodist Building project in Greenfield Park outside Garner. Preliminary plans for the exterior and site were approved by the Conference Board of Trustees on Nov. 18, 2008. Time line for the project calls for construction to begin April 1, 2009 and completion by April 30, 2010 with move in during May 2010. Plans call for use of the newest building methods and materials to make the facility more environmentally friendly and energy efficient. Consideration was given and rejected to a hip roof design instead of a flat roof. The flat roof on the present Methodist Building has had problems, however there are now better materials and building methods for a flat roof than 50 years ago when the present building was constructed. The new flat roof will cost \$350,000 less than a hip roof would have.
- Annual Conference Expense was approved for 11.25 percent, \$18,000, increase to \$178,000. Actual cost of Annual Conference for 2008 was \$177,000 requiring a supplemental request.
- Staff Salaries and Benefits is increasing more than the 3.5 percent projected for most salaries and benefits to reflect an increase of one position, Webmaster. The addition brought this item to a \$69,087 or 7.25 percent increase.