

DUKE MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHARGE CONFERENCE
October 5, 1987

COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES REPORT

We started off the new year with an orientation-training session on Jan 10 to learn the responsibilities and opportunities of the C.O.M. -- how to agree by consensus and how to use the U.M. structure in a holistic way to meet the needs of a varied congregation.

We have had regular monthly meetings of the Council, the Work Areas and the Age Levels (except Stewardship and Evangelism, which have been vacant all year -- but are now being capably filled for this coming year -- in fact, Al Buehler has already hit the track running as the new Chairman of Evangelism!)

In February we had an excellent Consultation on Children's Ministries led by Miss Ruth Lucy, Director of Children's Ministries for the Virginia Conference.

In March a good number of our church participated in the Crop Walk.

May 15-16 was the time for our C.O.M. Planning Retreat. This year our emphasis was on the Spiritual Foundation of our work. Jane Lynch planned and led us in an extended period of guided prayer and meditation. Out of this time of spiritual reflection came our theme for this year -- "GROWING IN CHRIST -- GROWING TOGETHER"! And, out of this solid foundation programs are emerging.

Advent & Lent Devotionals, Devotional Booklet & Christmas Tree
Three special items stand out: 1) We have strengthened our Family Life Program. Jay and Cathy Langford have planned and carried out a series of Church Wide Breakfasts on Sunday mornings. A number of groups (including the Administrative Board) have been involved in the cooking and cleaning up process. We have also had an excellent Ice Cream Social and a Church Wide Picnic at Camp Chestnut Ridge. All of these have been well attended and enjoyed.

2) Our new Wesley Sunday School Class for young couples is going very well with Caroline and Louis Sasser providing much of the Leadership.

3) the new JOY Class for Jr. and Sr. Highs. It's worth a visit to see their new rooms (a Big thanks to the Trustees and the Property Committee), and to see this new class in action. Kay Herman, Youth Coordinator and her helpers, especially Ben and Polly Mixon deserve a lot of credit.

We need some more adults to spread the work load. We don't need teachers, we have teachers and we already have about 10 adults working with the youth. But, we'd like to have another 12 or 15 to help. This is a going program, the Youth are excited about the JOY Class, and we want to keep it going, so come and help us. Kay has called a meeting for the Adults on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 7 P.M. in the JOY Class Room. Come and see and maybe you'd like to help build the Duke Memorial Church of tomorrow!

In conclusion let me say that we have just completed, last night, an excellent Mission Study on Technology in Tension with Human Values led by Dr. Ed Hammond.

We are very much aware that Advent is just around the corner, and the Council has begun making plans for the Decoration of the Sanctuary and the S.S. Class Rooms. Details will be announced soon.

The Council on Ministries at Duke Memorial is very much alive and well!!!

Respectfully submitted,
Omar R. Fink
Omar R. Fink, Chairman

