

Space below is provided for the pastor to report the state of the church and to give an account of pastoral ministry as it relates to providing support, guidance, and training to the lay membership in the church (§ 439); ministering within the congregation and to the world (§ 439.1); and administering the temporal affairs of the congregation (§ 439.2). Include as a part of the report a statement outlining the pastor's program of continuing education and spiritual growth for the past year and plans for the year to come. (§ 445).]

Associate Pastor (F/T) Report

First, I owe a deep word of gratitude to our resident bishop, C. P. Minnick, our district superintendent, Albert Shuler, our senior pastor, Mark W. Wethington, and our Staff-Parish Relations Committee, chaired by Shirley Few, for the opportunity to serve Duke Memorial. I am truly grateful for their affirmation of the call upon my life to share in the revitalization of a downtown church in a troubled city. I am especially grateful to Mark for the permission and blessing to share in the full range of pastoral responsibilities in such a challenging and exciting parish.

Summarizing a year of ministry in a short report challenges one to focus on the most significant events in the life of the church around which other important activities find their direction. Last year, for example, I highlighted our pattern of monthly Eucharist -- beginning with a 9:00 a.m. celebration which then moved to an 11:00 o'clock service of Word and Table; our extended and intensive confirmation class with adult mentors as well as parental involvement; and, finally, our Weekend of Discovery which challenged laypersons to examine their own calls to ministry in light of spiritual gifts and God's grace. This year, I have selected Covenant Discipleship, Disciple Bible Study, and our "Celebrate and Visit" Stewardship Campaign as the foci of my reflections. Each of these three emphases have sustained, amplified and complemented the three highlights of the previous year, so that our concentration on spiritual growth and the development of lay leadership has remained consistent.

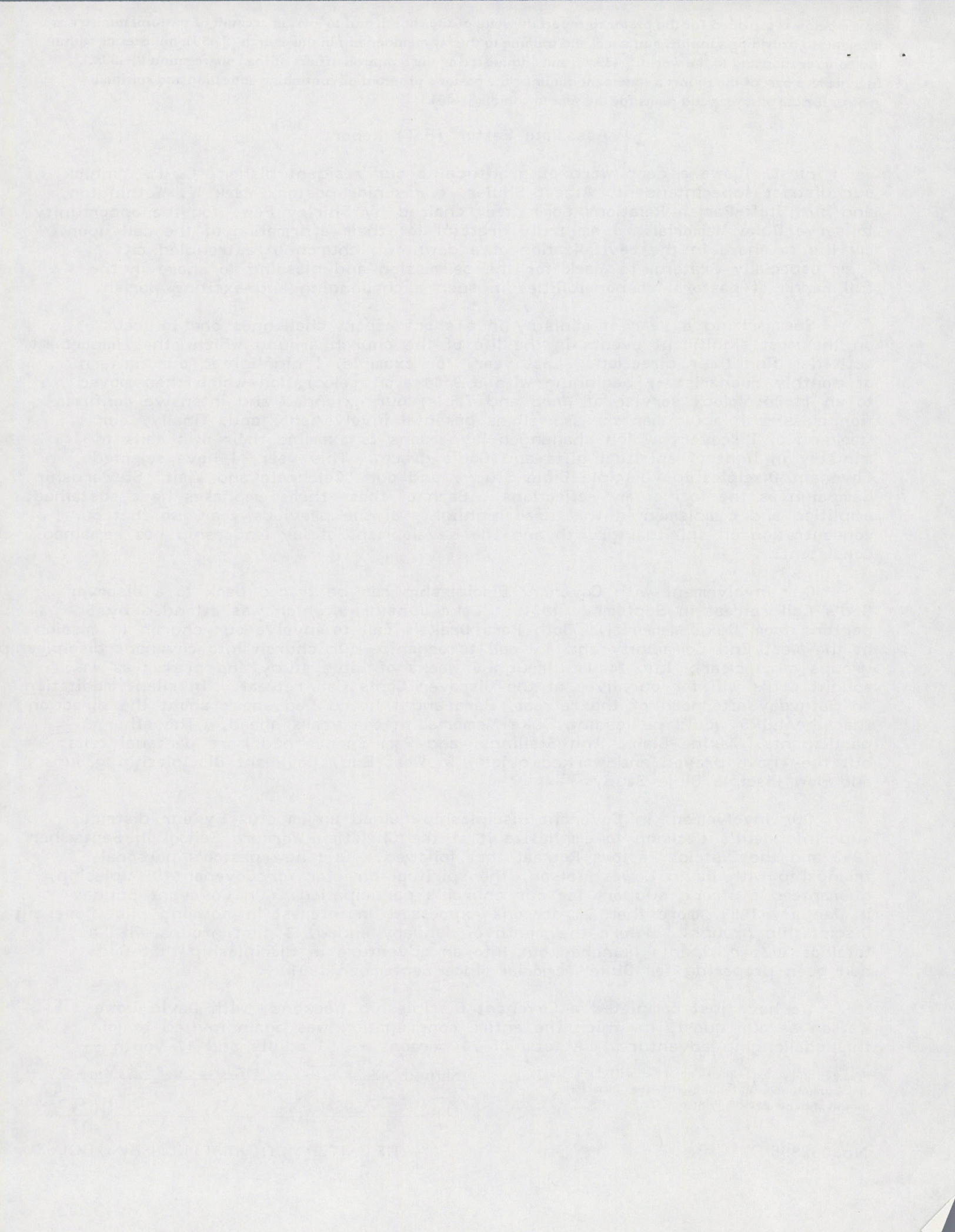
Our involvement with Covenant Discipleship can be traced back to a Discover God's Call retreat in September 1991 at Lake Junaluska which was attended by 5 persons from Duke Memorial. Both Para Drake's call to involve our church in mission in the West End Community and my call to organize our church into covenant discipleship groups came clearly into focus through 6 weeks of Bible study and prayer as we sought God's will for our lives at the Discover God's Call retreat. In silent meditation on Saturday afternoon of the retreat, Para and I heard God speak about the direction that the LORD would be leading Duke Memorial in the years ahead. The other 3 participants, Maxine Blair, Ann Stallings, and Pam Spence had more personal calls, but they have prayed and worked quietly in West End, Covenant Discipleship groups and now Disciple Bible Study.

Our involvement in Covenant Discipleship gained an impetus by our district superintendent's decision to emphasize it at the Christian Workers School in September 1992 and the District Pastors Retreat that followed. Our new pastor's personal friendship with David Lowes Watson, the spiritual director for Covenant Discipleship, guaranteed a strong support for our church's participation. On Covenant Sunday in January 1993, more than 20 persons expressed an interest in forming pilot Covenant Discipleship groups. Before the month of January ended, 3 pilot groups with a total of 20 participants launched out into an adventure in discipleship that God had been preparing for Duke Memorial since September 1991.

We have just completed a Covenant Discipleship Weekend, with David Lowes Watson as our guest, in which the entire congregation was again invited to join this challenging adventure. A total of 70 persons -- 53 adults and 17 youth --

Prepared and edited by the General Council on Finance and Administration and authorized as the official form for this purpose. 1993-96. Printed in U.S.A.

Signed Clinton W. Adams p. 1 of 3
Date November 17, 1993



have committed themselves to give one hour per week "to watch over one another in love" as they seek to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ through acts of compassion, justice, worship and devotion. In conjunction with our church's continuing involvement in mission in the West End Community, the LORD has provided a place for acts of compassion and justice just blocks away from where many of our acts of worship and devotion also take place. In other words, Covenant Discipleship should only enhance Duke Memorial's role in sharing the coming reign of God with a poor, drug-infested neighborhood which separates us from a premier university whose name and heritage we share.

Disciple Bible Study can be traced back to a similar call from God to Ann Stallings to begin a Bible study for young mothers. With Marge Clark's leadership, a group was organized on Tuesdays at noon in 1990 to study We are an Easter People. From that group which still meets weekly, a hunger for God's word began to spread across Duke Memorial. Although no one was willing to commit to be trained to lead Disciple Bible Study in 1991 or 1992, our Weekend of Discovery in September 1992 brought a new person to the point of making such a commitment. Mary Helen Ferrell heard the call of God through the hunger to do Bible study of those involved in the Weekend of Discovery. She agreed to go with me to be trained for Disciple Bible Study when God again paved the way through the North Carolina Conference's sponsorship of a 3 day training event in the Raleigh-Durham area. When we asked the Council on Ministries in December 1992 for the funds to send 2 persons in March 1993, Ann Stallings, who had not forgotten God's earlier call, moved that Duke Memorial appropriate funds for 4 persons to be trained at a cost in excess of \$1,000. When the motion passed unanimously, God had clearly prepared the way to introduce serious Bible study into the life of Duke Memorial.

Although 2 men and 2 women were registered to attend the Disciple Bible Study, one man had to defer and later postpone his involvement. Despite much publicity and personal invitations, few persons were willing to commit to 34 weeks of 2½ hour sessions to study God's word. Mary Helen Ferrell, Karin Marcinko -- a new member -- and I were getting discouraged late this summer about the response.

I am pleased to report, however, that our fears were unfounded. Two groups -- Wednesday evening and Monday afternoon -- with a total participation of 21 persons have now studied for about 2 months, and their enthusiasm and insights have already begun to permeate our congregation. Our worship has greater meaning, our ministry has greater depth, and our mission has greater impetus because these Bible students have a more clear understanding of God's will for the church and for the world. When we have entered the second phase by next fall of Disciple Bible Study, "Into the Word and Into the World," our church's ministry and mission should have a well grounded core of disciples who have grasped the full implications of God's Shalom for Duke Memorial and her neighbors in West End and across the planet.

Our Stewardship Campaign, "Celebrate and Visit", has unashamedly emphasized tithing as an expression of a person's whole commitment of prayers, presence, gifts and service to the church -- which is the Body of Christ. With Elizabeth Bookhout's support and confidence, we have sowed seeds about tithing in the testimonies of persons in our text for the Weekend of Discovery -- Called to be a Layman (or Laywoman), in the sample clauses of our resources for Covenant Discipleship, in the fourth lesson of Disciple Bible Study, and in INSIGHTS columns as well as the stewardship brochure itself.

Conf p. 2 of 3
11/17/93

Although the reports are still preliminary, we have noted an increase in pledges of between 6-15%. I am convinced that as Duke Memorial grows spiritually, we have the potential to administer at least a \$1 million budget rather than a proposed one of \$524,000 for 1994. The extra funds would not be necessary for extra staff or new buildings as some might expect, or suspect I might add. These tithes -- a full 10% of our church's corporate income -- would provide the resources for our lay people to make the visions and dreams that God is planting in their hearts begin to take root and bear fruit. We are on the verge of discovering God's call for Duke Memorial in the closing years of the twentieth century. I cannot wait to see what surprises the LORD has in store for this great church when we place our whole trust in God's unlimited resources and give ourselves unconditionally to the poor and the oppressed in our midst.

Ans p. 3 of 3
11/17/93

