

Duke Memorial United Methodist Church
Report to Annual Charge Conference
November 7, 2005
DRAFT – I Need Your Input

During the 12 months since the 2004 Charge Conference, there have been many activities, challenges and spiritual success stories we wish to share. This report is organized across four major categories: Spiritual Formation and Spiritual Witness, Mission Activities, Nurturing activities and Administrative Update. A fifth category, looking forward to 2006 is titled: Community Impact Report for 2006.

Spiritual Formation and Spiritual Witness

At the end of 2004, we had to make some very tough decisions. We already had an open position for a youth minister and we removed the Associate Pastor Position. Our approach was to seek someone who could focus on youth programs but who could assist the Senior Pastor with caring and visitation duties. In addition, as you recall, our Minister of Music (Julian Irving) resigned late last year. We elected to hire a part time organist (Fred Mason) and a part-time Music Director (Jill Newsome).

Even though these changes were difficult to work through, the results have been encouraging.

1. Again, this year, the Youth of our church witnessed and shared their personal testimonies with members of the congregation. We heard clearly what this church means to them and to their commitment to Christ. They engaged in several service projects such as the Appalachian Service Project when they traveled to West Virginia to help people build and repair their homes.
2. Sacred Dance continued to be a significant and meaningful part of many worship services.
3. In June, we said farewell to our loved and respected pastor, Lisa Cole. Lisa took a position as the Senior Chaplain at Durham Regional Hospital, something that she had been training to do.
4. We welcomed Frank and Jim Newsome and their family to Duke Memorial. Frank and Jill, both hit the deck running with Youth, Music and Adult programs. Frank also delivers ~~delivered~~ powerful sermons.
 - a) Jim has led us in the direction to explore what each of us and the church as a whole, believes. We are now in the "visioning process" defining what is important to us as members of Duke Memorial.

Minster of Youth (Frank Newsome)

Frank has led the youth on several retreats and service projects. He has also established the Soul Café, an inclusive period of time where people can gather to catch up with other members, participate in Bible or prayer study or participate in discussions of books (Rag muffin Gospel) or moves (What About Bob and Simon Burch)

Attendance at Wednesday nights has more than tripled since last May when Frank began to focus on this ministry.

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Associate Pastor (Lisa Cole)

Our Associate Pastor was with us through June, encouraging spiritual growth through a number of activities such as:

- Leading Emmaus Walks ~~at Avila~~
- ~~Leading Bible Studies~~ *Way of Forgiveness Study*

Minister of Music (Jill Newsome)

Our Minister of Music enhanced our worship experience and encouraged spiritual growth through such activities as:

- Sanctuary Choir
- Hand Bell Choir
- KinderMusik

The choir has grown in size. The music selections have become more varied and the singing has improved.

Mission Activities

Numerous activities were undertaken to share God's love by caring for others. Among them were:

- Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) is the program whereby our church hosts one or more families who need food and shelter for a week at a time
- Preparation of "Flood Buckets" as part of the UMCOR hurricane response
- A partnership with All God's Children Church in Aulander, NC.

Nurturing Activities

Stephen Ministry continues to provide one-to-one caring. There are 8 [✓] Stephen Ministers, six of which are assigned to church members. In addition, Stephen Ministers from other churches are caring for 3 church members and 1 person who is not a church member.

This year, Duke Memorial cooperated with two Baptist Churches (Union Baptist, White Rock Baptist), one Episcopal Church (St. Philips) and the Congregation at Duke Chapel to train 13 new Stephen Ministers. Two of the 13 are members of Duke Memorial. Another such training class is targeted to begin in January with participation from the same churches.

There are groups that support members of our congregation such as:

- ~~Divorce Support Group~~ *Give a hand weekly*

Administrative Update

This year, we established a Permanent Endowment Finance Committee to attend to two key issues:

1. Provide more focus on the investment and returns of the endowment funds
2. More clearly document the policies of Duke Memorial concerning the use of funds, the preservation of principal and the use of income

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I am happy to report this effort has been very successful and has produced a Resolution for the creation of the committee, a charter and a declaration for the General Endowment Fund which were approved by members of the Administrative Board.

Membership was xxx on December 16, 2004. We grew to a peak of yyy members. Membership as of October 25, 2005 was 870.

There are several groups that provide community services out of the Duke Memorial facilities.

- Durham Congregations in Action (DCIA) continues to have its offices at Duke Memorial
- Community Life provides activities and day care for elderly citizens. This organization plans to move to a new building in the Spring/Summer 2006 timeframe.
- The Society of St. Andrew offices are housed at Duke Memorial
- AA⁺ Alcoholics Anonymous meets in our church facility, too

We faced a budget challenge of almost \$50,000 as we started 2005. Unless donations above the pledge amounts appear, we expect to end 2005 with a shortfall of approximately \$20,000.

Our Stewardship Campaign urged people to give as God leads them to give, instead of giving to meet the financial needs of the church.

When all pledges have come in, we expect an increase of \$17,000 over 2005 pledges. At this point, we have decided to maintain the compensation level for our Senior Pastor for 2006

There is one final, interesting note. Duke Memorial is designated as an emergency backup site for the Hillcrest Nursing Facility.

Community Impact Report for 2006

In 2006 we at Duke Memorial United Methodist Church plan to do the following to impact our surrounding community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ:

1. We will be a very active participant in the Interfaith Hospitality Network ministry of Durham. We plan to host homeless families for seven or eight weeks during 2006. We will provide meals, shelter, and friendly and compassionate hosts for families who are experiencing the stress of economic crisis.

Respectfully submitted: _____

Blaine A. Butterworth
Chair, Administrative Board