

MINUTES FROM MEETING OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ON 11/14/99

This meeting of the UMW was called in order to discuss our declining roles and low attendance at general meetings, as well as, the lack of volunteers for officers for the next year. There were approximately 25 members present out of 93 on the current roles.

Elizabeth Luck called the meeting to order at 3:00PM. Hilda Coble opened the meeting with a prayer.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the future of UMW at Duke Memorial. Where do we plan to go and who is going to volunteer to take positions of leadership. There was a great deal of discussion regarding the General Meetings and the low attendance no matter what day or time they are scheduled. There was a suggestion that we meet right after Sunday worship. That is when everyone would already be at church and it would make it convenient. There was also a great deal of discussion regarding how many meetings per year we should have. Currently there are four meetings per year. It was also suggested that we should have a time when all circles share with the church what they have been doing. We know that every circle is doing mission projects but often times we don't know any details about what they are doing. If there was more publicity regarding our work that might entice others to want to be involved.

There are several circles that have very low membership. These circles are going to talk with each other to determine if they could combine their efforts into one group.

Jean Rouse, the UMW Conference President was in attendance and reminded us of what our mission is. We are to be involved in local and global missions and that is what the circles at Duke Memorial are doing. She suggested that starting new circles is a way to get other members of the congregation active in UMW. She also had several ideas for informative speakers that could aid UMW in gaining a stronger knowledge of the workings of the organization.

It was decided that any changes to be made to the way the UMW operates would be delayed until the new Executive Committee is in place for 2000. It is clear that we need to be open to change for our group to continue to flourish. Julie Ellis volunteered to be the Treasurer for UMW. Debbie Fedyshyn will continue with Membership and New Members. Hilda Coble, Betty Craig and Debbie Fedyshyn will work together on the nominating committee to recruit officers for the upcoming two years.

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