Ideas from earlier Council meetings, not in order of priority

Covenant Community - what is it? Covenant is promise -- I will be your God, you will be my people.
Covenant as privilege or as responsibility? Israel - a light unto nations;
Duke Memorial - a light unto Durham.

Have a Wesley Covenant Service

Have a series of Bible studies on selected texts developing the idea of covenant, perhaps during Lent.
Remind members of covenant already made when they joined the church.
Learn to live as Christian disciples in all relationships in society.
Develop specific measures to facilitate assimilation of new members into a close bond of fellowship in our church life according to their needs and choices.
Periodically, have a tour of the church buildings and facilities for new members.
Use name tags at all church-wide fellowship functions.

Church-wide Christmas caroling to the church shut-ins.
Deliver poinsettias to church shut-ins.
In some way, let Sidney, James, and Nonie know how much we appreciate their services.
Investigate the need for an occasional day at the church with lunch for home bound elderly members. Transportation and program provided.
Investigate the needs of people at the Retirement Home, both our members and those without church ties, especially those with no family connections here in Durham - or elsewhere.

Have regular once a month fellowship dinners.
Wider use of our facilities by both church and outside groups. Do we need a special on-going committee on utilization of facilities? Should we install an elevator? Equip at least one rest room on each floor for use by the handicapped? Construct a rear entry way with a ramp?

Once a quarter, put out a special edition of the Newsletter with reports from various groups about what they are doing.

Should we become involved in the Durham District Urban Ministries?

Idea of a chain in encouraging greater commitment; i.e., one person being responsible for getting another person involved, the second person getting a third, etc.
Focus on improving relationships between people and God and between people and people.

More small groups for prayer and Bible studies, perhaps using work books prepared by Maxie Dunham. Other study books are available also.

At Fellowship Dinners, etc., make a point of talking with people we don't already know instead of only those who are already friends.

More Sunday noon meals.
Place Bibles in jails.
Make major effort to increase church attendance and membership.
We need programs for college age students and for students that go away and then come back.
Growth in witnessing to our faith, verbally and in other ways, to our membership and the community.

Organize prayer chains.
Occasional hymn sing by congregation - 2 or 3 old, familiar hymns, piano accompaniment - could take place of anthem.
Children's choir sing more often, even if it's a hymn rather than anthem.

Occasionally have men of the church be the choir.
Combine one Fellowship Dinner of the year with a communion service, with families and church family feeling a close knit communion experience.

Have youth (14-19) assist with worship service at least once a year, with sermon by the pastor. This in addition to student recognition day.

Could we have a local missionary?
Report to the Council on Ministries from the Task Force on Concepts of Family of God, Covenant Community, Wesleyan Heritage, Methodist Heritage

Mary Whanger, chm., Margaret Anne Biddle, Tom Adkinson, Tom Goble, Arthur Kale, Eunice Mattox, Ruth Phelps, Maurice Ritchie, Ed Smith, and Bob Weynand

The task force met on January 18, with 8 members present to consider the following concepts and how they may be made meaningful in the life of Duke Memorial:

The Family of God
The Covenant Community
Our Wesleyan Heritage
Our Duke Memorial Heritage

The following ideas are presented for the consideration of the Council:

Because Family of God and Covenant Community are abstract ideas, make them dramatic or graphic in some way, perhaps through a series of skits.

What is covenant community? Covenant is promise -- I will be your God; you will be my people.
Covenant as privilege or as responsibility. Israel - a light unto nations; Duke Memorial - a light unto Durham.
Could we have a local missionary? Community involvement is an extension of our spiritual growth. Who we are, where we've been, where we are going.
Levels at which we can work -- whole church, Sunday schools, etc.

Wesleyan Heritage

Month of Wesleyan Hymns
Wesleyan hymn festival, with stories about how some of the hymns came to be written.
May 24 is Aldersgate Sunday
Ask Frank Baker to speak on Wesleyan heritage on May 6, Duke Memorial’s birthday Sunday.
Skit or play on Wesleys - at Chestnut Ridge? - Use various age levels.

Could we do John Wesley Covenant Service? Larry Cline, a good teacher on Wesley.
Possibly have adult classes together to explain Wesleyan Covenant.

All of us should be so proud of our church heritage that should share it with the community.

Ask adult classes to interpret meaning of sacrament of communion prior to Holy Week, possibly on Palm Sunday. Do this also with children.
Repeat on last Sunday in Sept. in preparation for World Communion Sunday Oct. 7.

Maundy Thursday Holy Communion - God’s Family at the table of the Lord. Use the term “God’s Family doing.......” whatever we’re doing as a church family.

Additional comments from last meeting of Council on Ministries:

Have a series of Bible studies on selected texts developing the idea of the covenant. Lent would be a good time.

Tie in Wesleyan heritage and covenant community with celebration of church anniversary May 6, Aldersgate May 24, and Pentecost June 3.

Get people involved by reminding them of covenant already made when they joined the church.
The following lines are meaningless due to the degradation of the text. The context appears to be discussing a community meeting or event, possibly involving the Council of the American Community, and the phrase "too family volunteering...." is repeated multiple times, which does not make sense.

"too family volunteering...."