

This Week in the Church

7/17 – 7/24

There was an Administrative Council meeting 7/20/21. The major discussion was about organizing the Homecoming 10/24/21. It was a future focused meeting – which is Ad Council's true purpose. It was an exciting hope filled discussion! The best Ad Council I've attended the past three years. Tied in with the Homecoming will be an additional outreach to members who have drifted away in recent years. Debbie Capps and Pat Teat have agreed to head up the Homecoming phase of the outreach effort. The ongoing effort will be completely organized and put into the hands of charter members Bobbie Bogan and Bobbie Nalley, and volunteers. Additional volunteers are needed. There was a discussion about what to do if the Trustees needed additional funds to finish out 2021. Dribble for Destiny monies will be at the Trustees disposal if needed. A motion was passed that the newly purchased heat and air system be paid for 90% by the CDC, and 10% by the congregation. *(Pastor's opinion - this is dangerous precedent! I did not raise my children so they would support me. BFUMC started a ministry for the Berea community 30 years ago. It is BFUMC's responsibility to support its child, its ministry to the community.)* Our child/ministry is supporting this congregation to the tune of \$2000.00 month. The CDC recently started giving an additional \$1500.00 a month to be used only on projects that directly benefit both congregation and CDC. The additional \$1500.00 income is from the CDC currently using the Ruth classroom.

This is a continuation of Administrative Council – covering a developing topic. The discussion of Air conditioning in the Gym came up again. I began researching the topic last summer assuming a contemporary service would be better suited in the gym. The CDC has been seeking this improvement as long as I can remember. I asked Dena to pursue quotes this year, the first of which came in at \$65000.00. Other quotes are coming in for consideration. I think we can do better, if cutting edge techniques are implemented. Here is where we stand financially. The CDC grants received from DSS can be used only to give bonuses to employees who worked during covid (this has been done generously). Secondly, grant monies can be used for anything that adds to the well being of children in our care. The CDC has \$37000.00 of grant money left that can be used on air conditioning. Here is some exciting news! The Church has a benefactor that is passionate about the CDC, and has offered to make a major donation to air conditioning the gym! What appeared absolutely impossible weeks ago - now seems very possible. I say God is good! It's amazing how things happen in a church when a Spirit of generosity takes hold! If quotes come down in the low fifties (thousands) – we have enough for the project. The same 90% - 10% ratio was suggested. *(Pastor opinion – Dangerous precedent!)* Think how many older smaller Methodist congregations do not have the flexibility/security the CDC presently offers this congregation. The Trustees must have a complete discussion of this developing topic ASAP! We have an amazing space to use and share! For gym usage to be restricted only to cooler times of the year is not acceptable. If BFUMC is going to grow, and be relevant to young families, we need this space comfortable year round, especially when kids are out of school.

Dena Nalley is exploring how to obtain the best possible Web access for BFUMC. More details will follow in the weeks ahead. OVER

The CDC Board had its first meeting since the pandemic began 7/22/21. Carol Presnell was elected Chair of this Board. Basic information concerning how the Board was upgraded and reestablished in 2017 was handed out. The committee expressed their present concerns including: the CDC must maintain scholarships to secure its tax exempt status; an independent person within the church must audit the CDC books monthly; and, the CDC director (Shannon) would be better served as a salaried employee. There was great appreciation for the job Shannon has done for thirty years, especially during the pandemic! We are blessed to have Shannon and the amazing staff she has put in place. Shannon informed the Board that this past June is the most profitable month the CDC has ever had. As the CDC faithfully shares the message of Jesus Christ with young children it continues to prosper in every circumstance. The CDC desperately needs to hire additional staff!!! In these days of free money finding new employees is very difficult. Again the topic of air conditioning in the gym came up, and a passionate discussion got started. Future meeting times for 2021 were set, and the meeting adjourned.