

Acts 2 Church Ministry Action Plan

Charge Conference 2006

Church Asbury United Methodist Church

Date October 10, 2006

"...by the Annual Conference of 2008, I want us to be able to identify, by name, 200 Acts 2 Churches in this conference! Churches that have all four of these qualities functioning well in the life of the Body. Churches that have decided to reach the lost, the unchurched, the de-churched — to reach children, youth, Hispanics and Latinos — not counting the cost or sacrifice involved.

"Churches that have prayer-based, Spirit-filled, quality worship services. By the way, our 2005 statistics also show that our average Sunday morning worship attendance is down 2, 796 persons! That fact should cause us to ask ourselves several serious questions about how we do worship, what we are or are not teaching about commitment and if real relationships actually exist.

"By 2008 we will name 200 churches that are teaching their members to go deeper and not just wider. Churches that are serious about every member being in small groups where they are supported, encouraged and challenged to grow in Christ. Churches that are helping their members understand the gifts of the Spirit and the role of those gifts in building up the Body of Christ. Churches that forge strong, full partnerships between the clergy and laity. Churches that want a leader to equip and empower them and not do their ministry for them. Churches that want to be challenged and not coddled.

"In 2008 we want to name 200 churches that are risk-takers in attacking poverty, seeking justice, caring for the needy — eager to give a hand-up and not just a hand-out."

—Bishop Gwinn, State of the Church Address, Annual Conference 2006

Our Congregation's Response to the Bishop's challenge is...

I. RADICAL HOSPITALITY

A. Current programs and activities

- Focus on conducting follow-up with all visitors
- Installation of glass doors reflecting an open heart, open mind, and open door
- Openness to community groups using our facilities
 - Office Space for Reconciliation UMC
 - Trinity Heights Neighborhood Association
 - Billy Switzer, Suzuki Guitar Lessons
 - Duke Undergraduate Gospel Choir
 - Community Planning and Development Meeting
 - Youth Choir from Sandersville, Georgia
- Increased opportunities to gather for table fellowship
- Special events for children in the community
- Christmas tree lot and fellowship around the fire barrel
- Brunswick Stew Project
- Hot Dog Bash, parking lot party
- Dinners for Eight
- Rest stop for CROP
- Nametags for members
- Pass out water to joggers on Duke's East campus

B. New, untried goals and plans (Implemented by Charge Conference 2007)

- Name persons to support our Outreach Ministry Teams and have them work closely with counterpart(s) in the Nurture and Witness Ministry Areas and the Director of Lay Ministries
- Create written ministry descriptions for all ministries and ministry teams
- Fall into Faithfulness – a contact ministry
- Spring into Action – a contact ministry
- Welcoming Signage and Directions
- Welcome Center/Information Center -- Information brochures and packets
- Name a special events coordinator for Children's Ministry

II. PASSIONATE WORSHIP

A. Current programs and activities

- Openness to and the encouragement of congregants using their gifts and graces in worship. Some example from 2006 include:
 - Special music offerings
 - Reading Scripture
 - Liturgical Dance
- Include and actively involve children in worship
 - Serve as Acolytes
 - Passing out pew pads
 - Food offering collection
 - Child friendly Hymns
 - Collecting offering
 - Children's Time & Children's Church
- Sermon Series on Holy Communion
- Serve Communion monthly at Hillcrest Retirement Center

B. New, untried goals and plans (Implemented by Charge Conference 2007)

- Pulpit and choir exchanges with churches in our community
- Joint Praise Services
- Experiment with creative Orders of Worship
- More dynamic anthems and hymns
- Create ways to emphasize the communion table

III. INTENTIONAL SPIRITUAL FORMATION —For all Ages from Cradle to Grave

A. Current programs and activities

- Dinners for Eight
- Weekly prayer services

- Wonderful Wednesdays for Children in Summer
- The Gospel Express (VBS)
- Adult VBS taught by Dr. Mickey Efrid
- Sunday School classes for all ages
- Adult choir practice

B. New, untried goals and plans (Implemented by Charge Conference 2007)

- Name person to support our Nurture Ministry Teams and have them work closely with counterpart(s) in the Outreach and Witness Ministry Areas and the Director of Lay Ministries
- Dinners for Eight, continued
- Investigate involvement in Stephen's Ministry
- Six week prayer study for prayer group
- Disciple Bible Study – 13 week edition
- Spiritual gifts classes
- Special attention given to helping congregants move into a spirit-led, gift-based, impassioned ministry

IV. RISK-TAKING MISSION AND MINISTRY TO THE WORLD

A. Current programs and activities

- Volunteers in ministry with Duke's Ronald McDonald Family Room
- Volunteers in ministry with the Society of St. Andrew's Gleaning Network
- Volunteers in ministry with the Durham Mission Society, Food Pantry and Clothing Closet
- Cook Breakfast at the Mission, 3rd Sunday of the Month
- Asbury Preschool, State and Nationally Accredited
- Collection Site for Katrina Relief effort
- Youth Mission Trip to Gulf Coast
- Submitted Application to serve as a host site for Angel Food Ministry

B. New, untried goals and plans (Implemented by Charge Conference 2007)

- Name person to support our Witness Ministry Teams and have them work closely with counterpart(s) in the Outreach and Nurture Ministry Areas and the Director of Lay Ministries
- Investigate involvement in Hand in Hand, a ministry to and with the public schools
- Increase promotion of Angel Food Ministries when approved as host site
- Create an openness for and provide support to congregants as God leads them to create spirit-led, gift-based, impassioned ministries

Mr. Randy Bell
Council/Board Chair

Ms. Sandra Reaves
Lay Leader

Rev. Leonard Doucette
Pastor