



The Church and Social Justice

Sponsored by VHUMC Advocacy Team
Wednesdays, April 7-28 - Room 208

The Bible tells us that GOD requires justice, and Jesus warned in two of the gospels that we should not neglect justice. But what does justice mean? Many people think of criminal justice only when they hear the word---making sure the guilty get the punishment they deserve. But justice means much more. It is about fairness, making sure that all---even the poorest---have enough. That understanding is included in terms like *racial justice, economic justice, and social justice*.

For John Wesley, there was no religion but social religion, and no holiness but social holiness. We are called to LIVE OUT our faith in the WORLD, particularly among the "least of our brothers and sisters." In our 4 sessions, we will explore what this means in regard to the taxes we pay, our 109-year-old state constitution, and public transportation, in addition to other topics.

Moderator: Jim Sturdivant

April 7 Bishop Will Willimon

Bishop Will Willimon will talk about the biblical basis for justice, as well as what our Methodist heritage teaches us about justice.

April 14 Kimble Forrister

"Why should the church care about tax reform and adequate state budget?"

April 21 Leonora Pate

Why should the church care about constitutional reform?"

April 28 Vestavia Mayor Butch Zaragoza

"Why should the church care about justice issues in our community?"

VHUMC Church Council Minutes 2-25-10

Call to order – Tony Ballard

Opening Prayer- Dalton Styes

Opening Comments from Chair – Tony Ballard

Month of February was jam packed with events (outreach events, Sweetheart Auction, elementary children's service and Women's Ministry Sunday this week).

Warren Page introduced new member – Jim Bullock representing the area of communications

Budget – Dan Carmichael - Dan handed out the proposed budget for 2010, which had been passed through the Budget and Finance Committee earlier this week. Dan provided an explanation of the rationale behind pledged vs. unpledged budget recommendations. He expanded on some of the proposed expenses: Connectional Ministries, Insurance, Maintenance, Transportation, Debt Service, Personnel. Expense budget is fairly flat compared to 2009. Budget was proposed to Church Council from the Finance/Budget Committee.

Tony opened up the floor for a vote. Vote taken. Budget approved for 2010.

Young Adult Ministry- Susan Groseclose – Susan announced that Margaret & Clint Bridges, with the help of both Susan and Myrle, are to start a new Sunday School class. A "Meet and Greet" is to occur on March 26th at the parsonage to assess interest and potential numbers. Susan is also reaching out to Horizons class to see about potentially starting another class for young couples.

Ministry with Mobility Equipment- Nancy Sellers- VHUMC has a program for storage and distribution of mobility or assistance needs. Currently we are in the need of shower stools. If people want to donate money it should be forwarded to the Accessibility Fund. A suggestion was made to place this information in the notes or provide it verbally to the congregation.

Outreach- Martha Cook- Chair of the "Funds for Christ" team which is the finance division of the "Hands for Christ" Outreach team. Thankfully, the 2010 VHUMC General Budget presented to VHUMC's Church Council on February 25, 2010, provided the same Outreach funding as last year, \$200,000. Regretfully, this amount is more than \$60,000 short of the current monetary requests from agencies and VHUMC teams that need our help now more than ever. She explained the process for agencies to request funds from the VHUMC Outreach budget, which includes a form agencies are required to complete. She encouraged every Adult Sunday School class to select an outreach coordinator. An Outreach Ministry resource guide should be included in every classroom. It can be obtained by emailing Martha at mcook@mhcilaw.com or Patti Eggers at peggers@vhumc.org.

Advocacy- Kay Twilley– Advocacy group is planning a spring offering in the Spring Academy classes for social justice issues. Reminder of July 9th-22nd mission trip to Bolivia

Senior Pastor Comments- Dalton Styes – thanks to all involved in the 2010 Budget. Academy number participants are up this year over last, as well as, more offerings and more participation. So far this year, we have had 49 new members of the church and the momentum continues to grow. Attendance is up 6% this year over last year which is a great indicator of church health. Dalton told story of providing assistance to a person in need who showed up at Bible study and church was able to provide the outreach needed.

Bill Bostick made a budgetary comment that church is moving forward along successful index; however, the economy is what is affecting the budget.

Next meeting date – Tony set the next meeting date at March 25th, 2010.

Kay Twilley closed the meeting in prayer.