

District Council Minutes
April 10, 2003
6:30 PM
First United Methodist Church
Sikeston, Missouri

Rev. Ron Watts, chairman, called the District Council of the Southeast District to order with prayer.

The members were then referred to the agenda and the two orders of business to be discussed.

Jerry McClanahan was introduced as chairman of the Trustees Committee of the Southeast District. He reported on the findings of the task force chosen to consider and evaluate the present district parsonage in Cape Girardeau. The findings of the committee were that the parsonage needs extensive repairs. If the choice is to sell the parsonage there are still repairs that must be made before it can be sold.

The committee recommended that the parsonage be sold, a new one purchased, and the office be moved to a separate location. Discussion followed.

Rev. Steve Breon, new District Superintendent, is familiar with situations like this, but it was decided by the group that if at all possible, the new District Superintendent should have a home to move into when he arrives.

The motion was made by Jerry McClanahan, seconded by Linda Lanning, that 1) the Trustees be allowed to explore selling the old parsonage in Cape Girardeau, 2) that the Trustees be allowed to put down earnest money on a parsonage as long as there is a guarantee that the money will be refunded if the District Conference should vote against the purchase, and 3) that the Trustees explore a new location for the district office with the option to buy or lease. Motion carried.

Hispanic Ministry

Rev. Paul Lanning presented a Vision Statement to the group and explained that it is to give the group ideas of what will be needed for the extended time of the ministry over the next ten years.

He introduced Rev. Rigoberto Lopez who is the minister of the Hispanic Ministry in Cape Girardeau. The program is well on its way. They meet Mondays for Prayer Meetings at 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM, Wednesday for Bible Study, Saturday for Church, and Sundays for Sunday School. They set their schedule to meet the needs of the people. He said many people work nights so they have day meetings for them. There are now 32-34 members in the church. He helps his people get jobs, takes them to their work if they don't have transportation and does anything he can do to help make life easier for them.

They are hoping for a \$37,000 grant. They are also studying to find new grant possibilities. This year they are hoping to have the ministry put on the apportionments, and for churches and individuals to make pledges to the ministry, as well. They are asking churches and individuals to make a ten-year covenant to the Hispanic Ministry. Rev. Lanning asked all churches to include the Hispanic Ministry in their 2004 budget.

The general offering on Saturday morning at Annual Conference will be given to the Hispanic Ministry in the Missouri Conference.

Rev Clayton Smith thanked Rigoberto for starting the ministry in our area and asked all churches to support the ministry.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Brent Mustoe, District Superintendent, who will be leaving us at the end of the Conference year in June.

Respectfully submitted,

Eloise Marsh, Secretary