



Cokesbury United Methodist Church

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Our Mission

To be a transformed and transforming community in Christ.

Our Vision

Change lives, ours and others'.

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Through Cokesbury Window

January 14, 2019

“Cokesbury and Central”

I know you are trying hard to process the news that GO Team shared with you yesterday. Thank you for the spirit of great maturity and wisdom that you showed both in the sanctuary and in the fellowship hall. In order for the whole congregation to have accurate information, I am sharing both the manuscript of Chris' verbal presentation and the written handout below. After you read them, please continue to read, because there will be very important information shared with you.

(Chris Betts' Presentation)

The leadership of Cokesbury UMC approached Central UMC in May of last year, after much internal discussion, about a possible merger. This has been a layperson initiative from the beginning. We asked the pastors to make the initial contact. It was then decided that we should form a joint task force to discuss the possibilities of a merger and what that would look like. The task force was made up of leadership from both churches.

We have been meeting since then on the possibilities of what a merged church would look like. I want to share our joint mission statement of the merged churches:

Becoming a powerful and positive influence of God's love in East Charlotte by supporting and expanding missions and by becoming better stewards of God's resources.

This will be expanded after the proposed merger is approved by both churches and the 2 congregations become one married church of God's love and compassion.

Early in the merger discussions it was decided by both groups that Central would be the main location and Cokesbury would be a satellite location. The ushers will have a sheet for you as you leave to share that information.

We are excited about the possibilities of more mission work and more space to expand the missions of both churches. We have long been partnering with Central with many of their mission opportunities (example Room in the Inn is just one collaboration).

We know that there are many questions that you will have. We will have an impromptu Q&A session immediately following this worship service and Lunch Bunch. We will have a more detailed Q&A session on January 27, 2019 (snacks provided) to go over questions that you might have. We will then take a “straw” vote of confidence on February 10, 2019. This will be a non-binding referendum to go forward with the discussions of a merger of Cokesbury and Central. A

final vote will be a formal church-wide called church conference of each church voting on the formal merger based on the Book of Discipline with the District Superintendent presiding.

God has a plan and we hope you will be open to that plan. I want to thank the persons that have been working on this and the time and joy that has been shared in our joint meetings with both churches.

(Written Handout)

What has been discussed and why the Merger:

Cokesbury and Central have a long history of working and worshipping together

We share the same footprint of possible members

We have the same mind set for missions (going out into the community to make disciples for Jesus Christ)

Our mission statements are similar:

Cokesbury

Mission Statement: To be a transformed and transforming community of faith in Christ

Vision Statement: Changed lives, ours and others

Cokesbury is a body of United Methodist believers that will:

Transform our lives before transforming the world

Share God and the light of Christ through our missions

Communicate with openness, honesty and love

Invite and participate in spirit-filled worship

Nurture a compassionate and diverse Christian community

Central

Joyfully embracing the diverse community where God has placed us, to become the ONE community God wants us to be through:

Joy-filled worship

Discipleship through all life stages

Intentional OUTreach beyond our walls

Empowering reciprocal service for the sake of our community AND God's kingdom.

Common Vision

Becoming a powerful and positive influence of God's love in East Charlotte by supporting and expanding missions and by becoming better stewards of God's resources.

(It will be the driving vision for our merger efforts. There will be a new vision statement for the combined new church once the proposed merger is finalized.)

What a merged church will help to show East Charlotte:

Expand both churches' current missions – Central Cares, Preschool, AA, NA, ESOL, Room in the Inn, Boy Scouts, Adult Share and Care, Urban Promise, and many others. It will allow additional space to be rented out or utilized to bring in more income and help show God's love by expanding our reach into a community that is in need of many services. More hands to do God's work and missions. Allow us to be a better partner in our missional network of East Charlotte for the Methodist Church.

Why Central's building:

- Larger facility**
- Preschool**
- Larger Sanctuary**
- Better visibility**
- More missions heavily imbedded in community**

(end of the handout)

As you see above, we will have the Vote of Confidence on Sunday, February 10 after the worship service. Only members can vote, and there are three ways to vote.

- 1) **Vote in person: it will be a secret ballot**
- 2) **Absentee vote by mail: If you are not able to attend that Sunday and would like to vote, please call the church office. Then, we will send you an absentee ballot and it needs to be returned in a sealed envelope to the church by Friday, February 8. All absentee votes must be signed.**
- 3) **Absentee vote by E-mail: If you would like to vote by e-mail, please e-mail Joan (jgillis@cokeburyumc.net) "Yes" or "No" to: Vote of Confidence for the Cokesbury UMC leadership team to proceed with merger discussions with Central UMC. Please add your name. Joan will print each of them out and seal them in one envelope and hand it to me Thursday that week. Therefore, the deadline for e-mail ballot is Thursday, Feb. 7 4:00 pm.**

May God wrap each of you in God's loving arms and give you hope and strength, as we discern the new path for Cokesbury together!

In-Yong



- Jim Atwater, James Thomas Atwater, & William Atwater gave a gift to the Budget Fund in memory of **Mary Ellen Atwater**.
- Tom & Lisa Atwater gave a gift to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Mary Ellen Atwater**.
- Dan & Kay Dumas gave a gift to the Room in the Inn in honor of **Sue Keene**.
- Mary Freeman, Pat McKenzie, Deanna Reed, and Louise Ward gave gifts to the Budget Fund in memory of **Louise Graham**, sister of Judy Sims.



Music at Cokesbury
Thursday, January 17 at 7:00 p.m.
By Kay Dumas

Mark your calendar for Thursday, January 17 at 7:00 p.m. and join us as we welcome back our favorite Bluegrass Band – Southern Express. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join you. Come early (6:00-7:00) and enjoy a hot dog supper for only \$4, prepared by our United Methodist Men. Donations accepted, refreshments will be served.

United Methodist Women News
By Tammy Gilmore

Congratulations to Cokesbury UMW members. Your hard work and many projects have enabled us to achieve Mission Today and Justice Today Silver Level Status for 2018! Special thanks to our core of 2018 leaders: Linda Horne, President; Bobbi Abele, Secretary; Sue Keene, Treasurer; and our Circle Chairs, Mickey Helms, Nicky Moran, and Betsy Taylor.

Upcoming date:
January 20 at 12:15 p.m.
UMW Executive Committee Meeting

Livable Meck
By Kay Dumas

If you live, work, worship, or play in Mecklenburg County, you will want to attend the forum presented by Mecklenburg County at our Prime Timer meeting on **Thursday, January 24 at 11:00 a.m.** Complimentary lunch provided. RSVP by signing the reservation sheet in the narthex. Let your voice be heard!



THANK YOU, THANK YOU!
By Tom DeVries

On Saturday, December 15, we hosted the Bethlehem Center Birthday Party for Jesus for 27 children and 4 staff. Thank you to those who contributed funds to make this event possible, to those who coordinated the event with Family Dollar, to those who helped as the children's personal shoppers, to those who organized the wrapping materials and supplies, to those who helped the children wrap their presents, to those who bought or supplied items and made up the goodie bags for the children, to those who got the pizzas and the rest of the food and drink items, to Pastor In-Yong for conducting a story session for the children, to Santa for showing up, and to those who took pictures and delivered them to the Bethlehem Center.

This is a wonderful mission project that continues to be a JOY for Cokesbury and the children and staff from the Bethlehem Center.

**Thanks for Supporting
Room in the Inn**
By Kay Dumas

Cokesbury's Young Adults would like to thank all of you for joining us in supporting Room in the Inn. We hope you enjoyed lunch as much as we did. Your generous donations amounted to over \$500.