

**Character Council of Hamburg
Faith Committee
Minutes for Wednesday, November 19, 2008**

Present: Pat Chlebowski (*SS Peter & Paul RC Church*), Sue Santandreu (*SS Peter & Paul RC Church*), Suzanne McKenney (*All Saints Lutheran Church*), Pastor David Menz (*All Saints Lutheran Church*), Barbara Bonanno (*Hilbert College*), Stacia Niver (*Wesleyan Church of Hamburg*)

Excused: Fr. Justin Ross, Laurie James, Sharon Baldwin

- The meeting opened with prayer by Pastor David Menz
- The minutes from the September 17, 2008 meeting were reviewed. Suzanne McKenney motioned the minutes be accepted; Barbara Bonanno seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- The Committee welcomed Pastor David Menz, who was visiting with us and thanked Stacia Niver for agreeing to serve as Recording Secretary.
- A list of the unassigned reflections for the year was passed around for interested members to review. Reflections are still needed for the months of January (Orderliness), March (Sincerity), April (Virtue), May (Honor), and August (Faith) of 2009. Please contact Sue Santandreu if you are able to fill one of these months.
- Vanessa Rehac has updated the Faith Committee portion of the Character Council website. Please review the page and make note of any changes or updates still needed. Suzanne McKenney recommended that each virtue be listed in alphabetical order in columns with a link attached to each virtue. This would allow all the virtues to be seen at one time and would be more user-friendly.
- Upcoming meeting dates include:
 - January 21 @ SS Peter and Paul RC Church
 - March 11 @ Hilbert College
 - May 20 – Location to be Determined

If you are able to host the May 20 meeting, please contact Sue Santandreu.

- Suzanne McKenney gave a report on the Board of Directors meeting that took place November 18. Save the date cards for the Character Conference and Carnival have been made. If you can use the cards, please let Suzanne know. 800 cards have been mailed through the Chamber packs, 200 thru the Department of Justice, and 100 thru regular mail. The Character Carnival is

being facilitated by the Education Committee and will feature Virginia Kroll, who is donating her time, and Glen Colton. Hilbert and the HUB are donating venue space and the use of their logos.

The Character Conference has a capacity of 325 people at each session. Sessions include: **Police Dynamics** for Law Enforcement Personnel featuring Sheriff Ray Nash; **Character First! Implementation** geared toward managers in businesses and government agencies featuring Steven Menzel; and **Building Moral Intelligence: Our Last, Best Hope** for educators and featuring Michele Borba, Ed.D.

The hope is to have this event on an annual basis. Organizers have developed not only local, but regional support and concern for this conference gaining a grant from State Legislator Bill Stachowski and sponsorship from the Department of Justice.

The grant funds applied for from the Brighter Future Fund have not yet been approved. This grant would go toward scholarships to the bottom 50 school districts represented in Business First's annual list of school districts. 5 scholarships would be available to educators in each school district and 5 would be available for people from business or communities represented by those same school districts.

The Champions for Character program launched in October. Each Champion's photo (which has been donated by Creative Photography), bio, and character reflection will be on the website. Pete Simon and Suzanne McKenney will be moderating each Champion meeting, which will take place 3 times per year. The Champions themselves will have ownership of this program, inviting others to join them. The hope is to add one to two people per year to the team until the team reaches 10-15 members. The first Champions for Character include:

Dr. Mark Crawford, Superintendent of Hamburg Schools
Dr. Ronald DeCarli, Superintendent of Frontier Schools
Mr. Thomas Moses, Mayor of Hamburg
Jack Quinn, Sr., President of ECC
Sister Edmunette Paczesny, Past President of Hilbert College

- Faith Committee members were invited to share what their church is doing to promote the values represented. Pat Chlebowski shared that SS Peter and Paul RC Church puts the monthly reflection in their church bulletin. Suzanne McKenney shared that All Saints Lutheran has a bulletin board in their lobby with the character trait / virtue of the month and ways to implement it available each month. They also hang the character posters around the church. Barbara Bonanno shared that Hilbert College has 8 core values that overlap

the virtues demonstrated. Each week the college sends out a quote revolving around their core values to staff and students.

- The next meeting will take place January 21, 2009 @ SS Peter and Paul RC Church located at 66 East Main Street in Hamburg. Contact Sue Santandreu at 649-2058 for more information.

- The meeting closed in prayer by Pastor David Menz