

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday, April 5, 2010

The Regular Meeting of the Church Council, 1st Congregational Church of Deep River, was called to order at 7:40pm in the Upper Room by Moderator Bob Butkus (scribing for Deb Van Wyngaarden).

Members in attendance: Nancy Peluso, Gerry Nolin, Jane Syme, Sybil Higgins, Heidi Lee, Emily Bjornberg, Lorrie Eriksson, Pam Visel, Fred Stempel, Fran Phinney, Fred Phinney, David Johnson, Tim Haut and Bob Butkus.

Rev. Haut opened with a prayer.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of March 1, 2010. It was seconded and passed by unanimous approval.

Pam Visel presented three fund raising activities for the Senior High Mission Trip. The Car Wash has been moved to June 5 at the Town Hall due to scheduling issues. Items from Haiti, Dominican Republic and El Salvador were purchased as "free trade" items and will be for sale at the Mother's Day Craft Fair on May 8. A booth at the Deep River Park and Rec. Carnival has been acquired for May 2. Dom Bosco, a local celebrity chef specializing in pizza will be making dessert pizza (so as not to conflict with the offerings of other food vendors). The booth will only be manned on Saturday during the carnival by the teen mission trippers and their parents. Our group will be responsible for purchasing supplies, but all proceeds will go towards the Senior High Mission Trip. Virginia Knudsen contacted Amanda Higgins to see if any of the mission trippers would like to serve at their CDE Nursery School fundraiser; four servers will receive \$50.00 each, which will go towards covering communal expenses, not individual. A motion was made and unanimously passed to heartily accept Pam's mission recommendations. All appropriate mission policy forms were handed in for processing.

Collector's Report – As of March 31, 2010, \$72,275.05 has been turned over to the General Fund. Of that amount \$1,570 is advanced 2010 pledges received in 2009 and \$57,418.96 received in 2010 for a total of \$58,988.96 or 26% of amount budgeted for pledge goal. The total of Prayed For to date is \$11,478.85 or 38% of amount budgeted. (monies were moved from Prayed For to Pledge goal)

Gerry Nolin inquired if the Liberty Bank CD *insurance reimbursement from Silverware loss) can be allocated to something other than the replacement of the missing Silverware. The Silverware has been gone for many years and there are no plans to replace it. The thought was that this fund could be used for other purposes. It is under discussion.

Treasurer's Report – The following report is as of March 31, 2010: Burroughs Savings Account (Repairs & Maintenance)-\$2228.35; Cemetery Fund-\$9857.28; Debit Card Account-\$104.80; Doris Pelton Memorial Fund-(\$455.00)*; General Fund-\$57680.29¹; Gifts & Bequests-\$60,542.34; Good Samaritan-\$5162.92; Grohs Investments Fund (for CD-3yr. term)-\$4000.00; Grohs Savings Fund (for various CE expenses)-\$4086.14; Haut Fund (Ministerial Scholarship Fund)-\$5700.76; Kitchen Fund (continuing kitchen expenses)-\$983.67; Liberty Bank CD (insurance reimbursement from silver)-\$1486.50; Macgregor Fund (outdoor ministry)-\$2103.26; Memorial Fund-\$5681.01; Mission Fund-16,794.58; Phelps Savings CD-\$5766.74; Phelps Savings (Music) \$2156.11; Program Maintenance Savings-\$11,959.79 Sabbatical Fund-\$6200.34; Samuel F. Snow Fund-\$1011.67; Stephen Ministry Fund-\$2271.95; Supplemental Health Insurance (6 month CD)-\$26,449.84; and Youth Music Fund-\$827.02.

* Gift to the fund which was to be paid by year-end.

¹\$2350 of balance is restricted with funds donated for specific use (wedding fees, funeral fee, etc.)

Messenger costs – Mailing: March-\$70.40; YTD-\$247.30

Cemetery – Fred Stempel reports next interment is set for May 1, 2010.

Christian Education – Sybil reported that teacher gifts are being worked on; can't say what they are due to a teacher being present at the meeting. Cakes were ordered by the BoCE for Confirmation Sunday. Board will cut and serve on Confirmation Sunday, May 23. Fliers were put in all the mailboxes in the hallway. She asked that each Board/Committee member bring up at the next meeting that the BoCE would like all to participate and it should be brought up at everyone's next meeting. BoCE is still in discussion of where the Mission Fair proceeds should go.

Christian Service – Gerry said the board needed to assemble the layettes by 4/19/2010 to meet CWS deadlines. They were still in the process of collecting required items. Cathy Smith asked if the Board of Christian Service would approve the Angel Food Ministry (AFM) at DRCC. She will report on AFM and back pack programs. She has been asked to expand the back pack program to Chester.

Church Delegates – No representative or report presented.

Council Members at Large – Fred Phinney reported that a young person wants to be able to hear the Sunday service in Fellowship Hall via the speaker system. This sparked a discussion around the original purpose of the speakers in fellowship hall and this proposed use. The speakers were initially intended to alert the folks preparing the post funeral refreshments and the like. It was mentioned that the speakers may be disruptive to the Sunday school classes in the Bell Choir room if left on each Sunday.

Deaconry – Heidi mentioned that the Church was well turned out for Holy Week. Donna Sheldon is following up on flower deliveries to treasured members. David Johnson will preach in April on Laity Sunday. The gluten free communion solution appears to be working (folks can help themselves to gluten free bread in baggies in the Narthex on their way into church). Good Friday had left over soup that was distributed at the Council Meeting.

Historical Committee – No representative or report presented.

Senior Minister – Tim presided over 1 funeral and 2 baptisms. Tim mentioned how busy he was and how pleased (and surprised) he still feels on the 30 years of service celebration held in his honor. He mention that the Lenten suppers continue to be a hit and that we may want to look for a new game to play next year. Confirmation classes continue. April will hold the Tour of local churches and a sleep over. Jim MacGregor will be handing down the organization of the Outdoor Ministry and Men's Hike. The Pittsburgh mission trip karaoke night was a success. The Easter service at Mount St. John was well attended (150+ people).

Director of Christian Education – Sybil reiterated on Tim's report of the confirmation class. They will have their sleepover on April 23. The confirmands will attend a service at the synagogue in Chester on Friday night and then back to the church for evening activities followed by the Church Tours the next morning. The Sunday School is collecting toothbrushes and travel size toothpaste for Eddy Shelter hygiene kits that they will be assembling. Nineteen 4th graders completed communion classes and took their First Communion on Maundy Thursday. It was noted that parents and guests were a bit noisy prior to the service; will need to address next year. The recycling program is going very well and we see less trash; Sybil spoke with the Sexton about the how the program will work. Amanda had a meeting when she was home from college regarding VBS; the curriculum will be *Veggie Tales - Jonah, An Overboard Adventure* recycled from previous years. Staff is getting place and they will be holding another VBS Block Party after Children's Sunday in June. The Sunday School Community Covenant will be enforced during VBS to encourage proper behavior. The 7th/8th grade will start to assemble the hygiene and school kits for CWS; still in need of 70 sheet notebook paper. A butterfly project that represents the 1.5 million children killed during the WWII holocaust will be worked on April 25. 3rd grade is working on curriculum to get Bibles on Children's Sunday. Sunday School cookbooks will be for sale during the Mother's Day Craft Fair; \$12.50 each or a bundled price (TBD) with a DRCC apron. Sybil mention she did have to come in during the last rain event to rescue supplies stored in the Sunday School storage room for there was approximately 3" - 4" inches of water in parts of the old basement. All appropriate mission policy forms were handed in for processing.

Director of Youth and Family Ministry – Emily reported that the play group is going along. 4/16 is preparation for 4/17 midnight run to NYC. The group will be back in Deep River by 3AM on 4/17. 4/24 is Medieval Dinner. 5/7-5/9 is Camp Claire “fix up”.

David Johnson mentioned that due to the “No Room at the Inn” sleep out response, a series of homeless discussions will take place; 2 movies and a book discussion.

Youth Groups – Need a youth council to help label the activities accordingly and better define the purpose of each group.

Nominating – Fran said that Cathy Smith is leaving the Daycare Committee. People are needed on Historical and Stewardship Committees.

Stewardship – No representative or report presented.

Trustees – Jane said that UBH will be our lawn care service. A possible plowing contract may be negotiated. Repairs are being made to keep grounds up to code. Research on the replacement of the heavy doors (at rear of the Bell Choir room) with lighter alternatives continues. Should the sign frame on the lawn stay or be removed? The parking lot drain repair was \$3,700 which is more than expected. Garbage disposal is fixed. Fran suggested a rail on parts of the sidewalk leading up to entrances. Water has damaged parts of the Blue Stone sidewalk.

Women’s Fellowship – There was no report.

Faire/Flea/Rummage/Craft – Sybil mentioned that the Mother’s Day Craft Fair is coming up on May 8th. Help is needed; sign up sheets are on the bulletin board.

Pastoral Relations – There was no report.

Personnel – Nancy had no report, but will be starting to meet with staff over the next few months.

Outdoor Ministry – There was no report.

Old Business – David Johnson last day as a Seminary Intern with DRCC is May 16. David is scheduled to receive the Master of Divinity on May 22. David is actively pursuing a ministry position, hopefully in the area. David presented to the Council a summary of the results we received from the survey taken by the congregation last year. This material will be available in the Church Office.

New Business – Sybil mentioned that she posted a Church Council page on the church web site. You can now download an agenda, Council Minutes as well as all the new Mission Policies which include forms for collections, mission fundraisers/events, mission trips and sponsorships. The actual policy is posted too.

David Johnson gave the closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Deb van Wyngaarden

Church Clerk