

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES **Monday, June 7, 2010**

The Regular Meeting of the Church Council, 1st Congregational Church of Deep River, was called to order at 7:38pm in the Upper Room by Moderator Bob Butkus.

Members in attendance: Gerry Nolin, Cheryl Jacome, Sybil Higgins, Nancy Peluso, Bob Butkus, Timothy Haut, Val Nucci, Laurie Eriksson, Fran Phinney, Fred Phinney, Emily Bjornberg, and Deb Van Wyngaarden, Clerk.

Rev. Timothy Haut opened with a prayer.

A **motion** was made by Cheryl Jacome to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of May 3, 2010 as printed. It was seconded by Fred Phinney, which passed by unanimous vote.

Collector's Report - As of May 31, 2010, \$105,271.78 has been turned over to the General Fund. Of that amount \$1,570 is advanced 2010 pledges received in 2009 and \$82,635.64 received in 2010 for a total of \$84,205.64 or 37% of amount budgeted for pledge goal. The total of Prayed For to date is \$19,029.85 or 63% of amount budgeted.

Treasurer's Report – The following report is as of May 31, 2010: Burroughs Savings Account (Repairs & Maintenance)-\$1907.32; Cemetery Fund-\$9822.18 Debit Card Account-\$550.10; Doris Pelton Memorial Fund-<\$455.00>*; General Fund-\$55,546.72¹; Gifts & Bequests-\$60,542.34; Good Samaritan-\$5205.57; Grohs Investments Fund (for CD-3yr. term)-\$4000.00; Grohs Savings Fund (for various CE expenses)-\$4159.55; Haut Fund (Ministerial Scholarship Fund)-\$5700.76; Kitchen Fund (continuing kitchen expenses)-\$983.67; Liberty Bank CD (insurance reimbursement from silver)-\$1486.50²; Macgregor Fund (outdoor ministry)-\$3071.18; Memorial Fund-\$6286.01; Mission Fund-16,556.78; Phelps Savings CD-\$5766.74; Phelps Savings (Music) \$2156.11; Program Maintenance Savings-\$9575.29; Sabbatical Fund-\$6200.34; Samuel F. Snow Fund-\$1011.79; Stephen Ministry Fund-\$2271.95; Supplemental Health Insurance (6 month CD)-\$26,568.28; and Youth Music Fund-\$827.02.

¹ \$2350.00 of balance is restricted with funds donated for specific use (wedding fees, funeral fee, etc.)

² Certificate of Deposit disbursed to General Fund as of 6/1/2010 and is for Board of Deacon use.

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

Cemetery – Val noted that in May there was 1 interment and clean-up work was done at the cemetery grounds.

Christian Education – Cheryl said the Board would be at church at 6:30am blowing up balloons for Children's Sunday. She noted that Confirmation Sunday went well. The Board discussed the Mission Fair (Sept. 12th) and they decided that the proceeds would be deposited in the Youth Mission Fund. She reminded everyone that each board and committee should sign up for an activity for the Mission Fair.

Christian Service – Gerry said that they had a success May trip up to Eddy Shelter. She thanked Val Nucci for heading up the team. This time the Eddy Shelter placed signage at the site to let folks know that they were coming which helped as there were 24 people receiving dinner. Gerry said that they also took up the Health Care Kits the 5/6 graders assembled and they were well received. Noted was that BofCS will be hosting the cake walk at the Mission Fair, she reminded members to sign-up for the Eddy Shelter and they are working on the bulletin board. Kathy Smith, who coordinates the backpack program for DRES is looking for help to assemble the packs each week. Dorothy DeMichael noted that the group does have access to the Deep River Food Pantry.

Church Delegates – There was no representative or report given.

Council Members at Large – Fred said that members are delighted that the directory is published and is available. Laurie had no report.

Deaconry – Nancy was happy to welcome this group of confirmands; they are a great group of kids. Deaconry is working on everyday stuff and the gluten-free bread (placed in basket in Narthex) on Communion Sunday is working out well. The church welcomed 5 new members and 2 more will be joining at a later date.

Historical Committee – There was no representative or report given.

Senior Minister – Tim gave five convalescent home services, two funerals, two weddings, and a luncheon with confirmations. Tim mentioned the nice coffee hour held in honor of David Johnson, our seminary student. David graduated from Andover Newton. The craft fair was great and he thanked Claudia for organizing the event. The Lions Club held a silent auction in May at the church, with proceeds going to the Dominican Republic. The event raised \$6000. Tim attended the Middlesex Assoc. meeting in Hadlyme and participated on the Tri-Town Youth Asset Building Team.

Director of Christian Education – Sybil said that the 5/6 grade put 50 health kits together for the Eddy Shelter. Tim met with 3rd graders who are to receive their bibles on Children's Sunday, rehearsal for Children's Sunday was held yesterday and the kids are ready to go next week, teacher gifts ready to go and 200 bulletin covers have been made. Sunday School pre-registration will be on Sunday as well as on Tuesday, August 24th. There will be a Block party to benefit Vacation Bible School after Children's Sunday. Amanda was able to get a touch tank for the kids (thanks to Cathy from Maritime Education Network Inc in Old Saybrook), aprons/cookbooks will also be available for sale as Father's Day is the next week. Teachers will be needed in 2nd, 3rd and 8th grade. Sybil also reminded boards and committees about signing up for Mission Fair Sunday on September 12th.

Director of Youth and Family Ministry – Emily said she and David finished up the last of their 3 presentations about homelessness; play group chugging along and Confirmation went well. Though she couldn't spend as much time with the group this year, she wanted to commend David, Tim, and Sybil on all their efforts with the group. Emily said that Camp Claire was extended to a 2nd weekend as the roofing of a cabin needed to be completed. She liked the idea of this mission as it was shorter than the week-long missions and much cheaper. There was a wider array of people, it was local, and it was family oriented. She will keep her eyes and ears open for other family ministry opportunities like this.

Youth Groups – Emily will be working with adult leaders to get these groups going this year as there was no activity last year. The groups are: Joy (4&5), Jr. PF (6-8), and Sr. PF (9-12).

Nominating –

The following motions were made by Fran Phinney:

Motion: Accept the resignation of Rebecca DeMichael from the Board of Christian Service.

Motion: Accept the resignation of Brenda Kollmer for the Board of Deacons.

Motion: Nominate Cathy Shanley and Jane West to the Stewardship Committee.

Motion: Nominate Kelley Frazier to the Board of Christian Service.

Motion: Nominate Ruth Lawrence to the Day Care Committee. She is replacing Cathy Smith.

Val Nucci second the motions, which passed by unanimous vote. It was noted that resignations were accepted with regret.

The Christmas Faire committee has the following updates: Jim Ressler and Bill McNeeley will do the Brick Oven. Val Nucci volunteered to help Jim and Bill. There is still an opening to man the bread pans! The Reindeer Restaurant is in desperate need of a chairperson and helpers.

Stewardship – Deb was delighted that 2 more members have joined her and Dale Winchell on the committee. The group actually met on Sunday to set-up times to meet. Deb will write a reminder for the Messenger on the importance of continuing pledges through the summer. The committee will be meeting in June to compose a letter which will accompany the June 30th member giving statement. After the mailing, the group will be working on ideas for their 2011 campaign. A page will be set-up on the church website for stewardship information. A video of members and the importance of DRCC to them will also be added to the stewardship webpage in the Fall.

Trustees – There was no representative or report given.

Kitchen Committee - Sybil said the committee is working on improving work flow in the kitchen. Dorothy DeMichael and Sybil Higgins recently took the State Safe-Serve program and hope to be certified soon. Rita Thorpe is also certified. Laurie Eriksson is helping with kitchen design. Based on State standards, rearranging of serving pieces, utensils, etc. will be addressed over the summer. Sybil explained to the Board the importance of following State policy to be a certified kitchen.

Women's Fellowship – Nancy and Sybil noted the importance of getting this group up and running. A thought was that a mention in the September newsletter of what the group does and that leadership is needed might draw some interest.

Faire/Flea/Craft – Tim noted that reservations are already coming in for the Flea Market.

Pastoral Relations – There was no representative or report given.

Personnel – Nancy said the committee had a chance to meet with Tim, Emily and Sybil. They will be meeting with the rest of the staff in June.

Outdoor Ministry – Tim mentioned that the Men's Hike is August 6-8 in New Hampshire.

Old Business –

Motion: Made by Emily Bjornberg to have proceeds from the Medieval dinner be deposited in the Youth Mission Fund. Seconded by Gerry Nolin. Passed by unanimous vote

Motion: Made by Timothy Haut to have the proceeds from the Lenten Supper Wheel of Fortune be deposited in the Youth Mission Fund. Second by Cheryl Jacome. Passed by unanimous vote.

New Business – Pam Visel asked if the church wanted to sponsor the Thula Sizwe group. They would arrive on October 17th, hold a concert on October 18th, and attend church service on the 19th. Church members would be asked to host members of the group.

Motion: Made by Fran Phinney to extend an invitation to the Thula Sizwe group. Seconded by Val Nucci, which passed by unanimous vote.

Deb noted that she received information from the Church Office regarding Destiny Africa Children's Choir that was here last year. Information was read regarding their plans for the New England area. Church Council thought it best to decline their invitation to perform this year as they will be in the area the same time as the Thula group. Deb will notify Kris of the decision so she can let group know.

Deb also brought up issues regarding electronic media. A wall on a member's Facebook page had a comment about a church program that was not appropriate. Deb will submit an article on Church Council's behalf in the Messenger. It will include the church Community Covenant. Sybil said that Safe Church policy will need to be revised to include electronic media guidelines.

Tim discussed the notion of another seminary student to assist the church again this year. Discussion and consideration included whether there were discretionary funds available to cover this expenses for the last part of fiscal year 2010. The cost for a seminary student is \$3000.

Motion: Made by Val Nucci that Church Council authorize our Senior Pastor, Timothy Haut, to seek and select a seminary student to work at our church for the Fall 2010 - Spring 2011 term. Seconded by Deb Van Wyngaarden, which passed by unanimous vote.

Motion: Made by Fran Phinney to form an AdHoc committee to give seminary support. This committee will be under the direction of the Pastoral Relations committee. The size of the committee will be limited.

Motion: Made by Fran Phinney to authorize the Trustees and Treasurer to disburse funds for seminary student from appropriate account. Seconded by Fred Phinney, which passed by unanimous vote.

Motion: Made by Gerry Nolin to have the Board of Trustees add a line-item in future budgets for a seminary student. Seconded by Val Nucci, which passed by unanimous vote.

Rev. Haut gave the closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Deb Van Wyngaarden

Church Clerk