

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES Monday, March 1, 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.

Members in attendance: Nancy Peluso, Gerry Nolin, Jane Syme, Val Nucci, Sybil Higgins, Claudia Hardy, Lorrie Eriksson, Pam Visel, Cheryl Jacome, Fran Phinney, Fred Phinney, Tim Haut, Bob Butkus, and Deb Van Wyngaarden.

Rev. Haut opened with a prayer.

A motion was made by Fran to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of February 1, 2010. It was seconded by Sybil, which passed by unanimous approval.

Deb has asked that minutes be printed at home and brought to the meeting. She will also send along the agenda. Kris will be making copies for the meetings, but they will be limited.

Collector's Report - As of February 28, 2010, \$54,859.61 has been turned over to the General Fund. Of that amount \$1,570 is advanced 2010 pledges received in 2009 and \$40,026.68 received in 2010 for a total of \$41,596.68 or 18% of amount budgeted for pledge goal. The total of Prayed For to date is \$11,534.94 or 38% of amount budgeted.

Treasurer's Report – The following report is as of February 28, 2010: Burroughs Savings Account (Repairs & Maintenance)-\$2588.35; Cemetery Fund-\$9857.28; Debit Card Account-\$914.80; Doris Pelton Memorial Fund-<\$455.00>*; General Fund-\$65,300.92¹; Gifts & Bequests-\$60,813.59; Good Samaritan-\$5049.92; 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-\$5431.01; Mission Fund-12,492.03; Phelps Savings CD-\$5766.74; Phelps Savings (Music) \$2156.11; Program Maintenance Savings-\$15,462.28; 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-\$67.10; YTD-\$176.90

Cemetery – Val said there was “no action this month”.

Christian Education – Cheryl noted that the board is in charge of the Lenten Dinner on 3/17. There is not a Heifer project planned for this year, the board will be in charge of the cakes for Confirmation Sunday, and due to the success of combining Teacher Appreciation with Children's Sunday last year, these events will occur together in the future. Regarding the Mission Fair in September, Nominating will be taking over the grill so in addition to someone taking over the bake sale, we are looking for all boards and committees to provide some type of activity for the Mission Fair.

Christian Service – Gerry said the board went through what was happening for the year and assigned tasks. Andrea C. is now secretary. There was an issue with providing dinner for the Eddy Shelter (another meal was served on our regularly scheduled day -1st Wednesday of the month) and have begun more communication with shelter staff to avoid a repeat of the problem. Melissa A. is looking at the possibility of keeping some of

the layette kits locally rather than sending them all to CWS; the board wanted to keep some of the supplies on hand for local families in need.

Church Delegates – No representative or report presented.

Council Members at Large – Fred Phinney read a letter from Kaylee Moen asking for Council approval to collect small toys, crafts and other items for a mission trip to El Salvador she will be taking in March. Fred made a motion to allow collections. It was seconded by Tim, which passed by unanimous decision. This was a pre-approved collection by the Senior Minister and needed Church Council final approval.

Deaconry – Nancy said they did the Lenten supper last week and was busy with preparation for holy week. There were some complaints about the gluten-free bread served at communion. Next month they will place the gluten-free bread in baggies in a basket in the Narthex; a member of the church has offered to make the bread. Tim noted that two chalice's can be used at the 8:30am service for dipping bread. The board is trying to come up with ideas that serve all the membership of our church.

Historical Committee – No representative or report presented. Fran mentioned that 1 permanent member is needed for this committee.

Senior Minister – Tim reminisced about his 30 years of service to DRCC. We lost Cliff Tabor this past week and he will be sorely missed. There is a memorial service for Cliff at the church this Saturday. There were 2 funerals in February and no weddings or baptisms. He attended the overnight workshop at Andover-Newton for supervisors of minister interns and enjoyed the interaction with other supervisors. Tim noted that anyone who is staying in Boston, the UCC has a place to stay, the Walker Center, which is a B&B for only \$35/night. The Rotary held a fundraiser for Haiti at the church this past week and over \$10,000 in donations was collected for the relief effort. The Coalition for the Homeless will be meeting Tuesday morning at the church. The Men's breakfast is on Palm Sunday with Bill West as guest speaker. Both Lenten Bible discussion groups are continuing with one on Wednesday evenings and the other on Monday afternoons. Tim is a judge for Karaoke Idol this Saturday and is looking forward to his debut. Tim spoke with the minister from Sioux Falls, South Dakota recently about our friends from the Sudan.

Director of Christian Education – Sybil said that Teen Issues collected \$384.54 from the "souper" bowl collection on Super Bowl Sunday and the money will be donated to the soup kitchen. The 7/8 grade classes are finished with their school kit collections and are now assembling the kits. This group is also ready to kick off the new single-stream recycling program at the church and will discuss the program at an upcoming church service. Sybil noted that the inside containers were purchased with e-scrip money and AllWaste has placed a container outside. The Sexton needs to be notified of the program and CSCC is already on board. She also thanked Deb for making the labels to affix onto the containers explaining what items are acceptable. Vacation Bible School will be held July 19-23 with Amanda heading up again this year. There is no curriculum set yet. Amanda would like to hold another block party to raise funds for VBS. A motion was made by Sybil to allow a block party fundraiser on June 13th to raise funds for VBS. It was seconded by Gerry, which passed by unanimous decision. The 4th grade has 19 kids participating in communion classes. Sybil wanted to thank Lisa McNeely for heading up the 30-Hour of Famine program here at the church. She did a fantastic job engaging the youth. Twenty-six (26) youth and 7 adults participated in the program. Two service projects were held during the famine. At the food drive, 324 food items were collected outside Adams that helped over-filled the Deep River Soup Kitchen. Other youth went to Chesterfields where they played bingo with the residents. Lisa will give Sybil a final tally of money received once all the donations are counted. We are looking into ways to make the attendance policy equal for all due to split living arrangements amongst many of our youth.

Director of Youth and Family Ministry – Tim gave Emily's report as there was a last minute illness her family which prevented her attendance. It was noted that the "No Room at the Inn" was a hugely successful program (see Messenger). It was a great experience for the participants. The Midnight Run is scheduled for April 17th. There will be a list of items they will be collecting as well as food donations needed to prepare a meal for the homeless. Though plans are underway for April 24th-the Day of Service, with so many things happening at the church that weekend, Emily is reviewing schedule and plans. The Medieval dinner is being held on April 25th at 5pm. A decision needs to be made about where the proceeds are going. With the new church policy, it

might be a good idea to place the money into Mission Funds-Undesignated, where it can be disbursed as needed.

Youth Groups –

Joy – Sybil mentioned that Robin Holland's group made Valentine's Day cards and that they were delivered to a local convalescent home.

Jr. PF –

Sr. PF -

Nominating – Fran said that there is one opening on the Historical Committee and two members are needed on Stewardship.

Stewardship – Deb noted that a new appeal went into the March Messenger; it has generated one new pledge so far. Tim is still reviewing names of those who have pledged in the past and he will forward names that he feels can be sent reminder letters.

Trustees – Jane said that a formal policy regarding mission fundraisers is going to be presented to Church Council (see New Business). The 6th Annual Spaghetti supper was held recently and CSCC raised \$1150. This year enrollment at CSCC is 10+ from last year. Many kind words have been said about the program and its staff. The Personnel Committee is currently exploring information regarding all church employee benefits. Tim brought up concerns about storage space. The Trustees did approve a closet for paper supplies to be built across from the library and a closet for the kitchen to be built across from the kitchen in the same hallway. It was mentioned that the paper closet was already built by Richard Higgins and it looks great. The water fountain will be removed soon and the Trustees are looking into repairs to the downstairs bathrooms. A lawn care bid went out and the service that provides our snowplowing was given the job. The drain in the parking lot is collapsing and it has been contracted to be fixed this week. They are still looking at what to do with the coat racks and Jane is in the process of organizing the church keys. Claudia asked about the stage doors in Fellowship Hall; the Trustees are looking at possible alternatives. They will be hosting the March 3rd Lenten supper.

Women's Fellowship – There was no report.

Faire/Flea/Rummage/Craft – Claudia mentioned that this is the 4th year for the Craft Fair. She won't be able to be at the event this year which is being held on Saturday, May 8th and is seeking help. Elizabeth Root and Sybil Higgins will be in charge of the food at the fair this year. Claudia also asked the Nominating committee for help in getting members to form a Craft Fair Committee like Faire and Flea. Tim mentioned that if anyone is interested in raising funds, Quality Collections brought forth the idea of an auction. Let him know if there is interest.

Pastoral Relations – Tim mentioned that this committee is the supervision committee for David. David's service to DRCC runs through May. There was mention by Council that they would like to be made aware if an opportunity arises to have another intern at the church to assist Tim.

Personnel – Nancy had no report.

Outdoor Ministry – No representative or report but Jim did call Tim letting him know he's still in the planning stages of the Men's Hike. Tim mentioned that Jim has been ill. Council sends him well wishes and their prayers.

Old Business – Fran said the editors of the Messenger went over the list of members and compared their responses for delivery of the Messenger with Kris. Approximately 50 members have not responded in any way on how they wish to receive the Messenger. A sticker will be placed on the April Messenger asking them to call the church office in regards to how they want to receive it.

New Business –

Pam mentioned that the Thulesizwe group from South Africa is interested in coming back to Deep River in the Fall. A motion was made by Fred to allow Pam to investigate further this possibility of hosting the group from a Friday afternoon through Monday morning, with a Saturday night concert. It was seconded by Fran, which passed by unanimous vote.

The following motions were made on behalf of the youths/adults participating in the Pittsburgh, PA mission trip by Pam Visel:

- Allow the group to create a map showing a vehicle going from Deep River, CT to Pittsburgh, PA for display in Fellowship Hall. The trip cost is estimated at \$5.00/mile. The hope is to collect donations that will help the vehicle get back to Deep River. Fred seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- Allow the group to have a car wash/bake sale fundraiser at Town Hall on May 15th. For the 1st hour, the car washes will be free to seniors/veterans. Fran seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- Allow the group to purchase fair trade items and Haitian artisan work to resell at the May craft fair. Monies used to purchase fundraising items cannot originate from monies received as donations to the mission trip. Tim seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Church Council also approved the group's usage of the tax-exempt ID number to purchase items.

A motion was made by Tim to allow collections for a mission trip to Haiti in which Phyllis Haut is participating in. It was seconded by Fran, which passed by unanimous decision. This was pre-approved by the Senior Minister and needed Church Council final approval.

A motion was made by Tim to allow a fundraiser on May 15th at 6pm at the Stone House to raise funds for the mission trip to the Dominican Republic. It was seconded by Fran, which passed by unanimous decision. It was noted that the 1st Congregational Church, Deep River is officially a co-sponsor of the Dominican Republic trip along with the 1st Congregational, East Haddam and the United Church of Chester.

Materials were distributed regarding mission funds and church policy and procedure. Discussion followed. A motion was made by Deb to accept the title of Director of Youth & Family Ministry to be printed on policy documents regarding distribution of mission funds. It was second by Gerry, which passed by unanimous vote. This motion was necessary as the position is not in the church by-laws.

Tim made a motion to accept the following documents as church policy and procedure with changes indicated at meeting. The documents are: Policy for Distribution of DRCC Mission Funds, Mission Fund Donation Form, Notification for Collections, Fundraiser/Event Request, DRCC Sponsored Mission Planning Procedure, Mission Program/Trip/Work Funds Request Requirements, Individual/Group Sponsorship Applications, and Individual/Group Final Report. It was seconded by Val, which passed by unanimous vote. Val thanked Deb and the group for this huge effort and streamlining this procedure and getting DRCC up to date with IRS regulations.

Rev. Haut gave the closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Deb van Wyngaarden

Church Clerk