

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES Monday, November 1, 2010

The Regular Meeting of the Church Council, 1st Congregational Church of Deep River, was called to order a 7:33pm in the Upper Room by Moderator Bob Butkus.

Members in attendance: Heidi Lee, Richard Lee, Ruth Lawrence, Jack Lawrence, Dale Winchell, Fred Phinney, Fran Phinney, Pam Visel, Jane Moen, Laurie Eriksson, Rev. Timothy Haut, Sybil Higgins, Nancy Peluso, Bob Butkus, Emily Bjornberg, and Deb Van Wyngaarden, Clerk.

Rev. Timothy Haut opened with a prayer.

The minutes of the regular meeting of Monday, October 5, 2010, were unanimously approved as printed.

Collector's Report - As of October 24, 2010 \$180,706.61 has been turned over to the General Fund. Of that amount \$1,570 is advanced 2010 pledges received in 2009 and \$143,587.32 received in 2010 for a total of \$145,157.32 or 63% of amount budgeted for pledge goal. The total of prayed for to date is \$33,205.93 or 110% of amount budgeted. *NOTE: The 2010 budget pledge goal is \$229,358 however pledges received for 2010 are only \$183,200.*

Treasurer's Report – The following report is as of October 31, 2010: Burroughs Savings Account (Repairs & Maintenance)-\$1800.24; Cemetery Fund-\$9,932.03; Debit Card Account-\$415.59; Doris Pelton Memorial Fund-<\$455.00>; General Fund-\$29,288.54¹; Gifts & Bequests-\$50,634.52; Good Samaritan-\$5805.07; Grohs Investments Fund (for CD-3yr. term)-\$4000.00; Grohs Savings Fund (for various CE expenses)-\$3807.91; Haut Fund (Ministerial Scholarship Fund)-\$5700.76; Kitchen Fund (continuing kitchen expenses)-\$403.72; Liberty Bank CD (insurance reimbursement from silver)-\$0²; Macgregor Fund (outdoor ministry)-\$41.27; Memorial Fund-\$6411.01; Mission Fund-\$17,140.96; Phelps Savings CD-\$5796.10; Phelps Savings (Music) \$2156.11; Program Maintenance Savings-\$8558.31; Sabbatical Fund-\$6200.34; Samuel F. Snow Fund-\$1012.03; Stephen Ministry Fund-\$2271.95; Supplemental Health Insurance (6 month CD)-\$25,908.63; and Youth Music Fund-\$827.02.

1-\$3,397 of balance is restricted with funds donated for specific use (wedding fees, funeral fees, etc.)

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

Messenger costs - mailing: Nov: \$70.15 YTD: \$684.70

INVESTMENT - Richard Lee updated Council on the possibility of holding an estate planning seminar. Since Essex Financial Services is the church's investment firm, it has been recommended that affiliate, Dade Pitney hold an on-site charitable giving meeting. Church members are under no obligation; this is just an informational seminar. Council suggested holding the meeting in late April/early May, midweek, after the Easter Season. The Investment Committee will publicize the event and give the opportunity for church members to be added to a list of resources for estate planning/charitable giving. Richard will attend another council meeting after the Christmas holidays with updates.

MESSENGER UPDATE: At the last Council meeting, the Messenger Editors were asked to provide Council with updates on mailing costs, etc. along with what they felt the mission of the Messenger was. Fran gave break out of # of pages of the Messenger: Jan-16, Feb-14, March-20, Apr-20, May-21, Jun-22, Jul/Aug-25, Sep-32, Oct-24*, Nov-20. *Left out pages in printed edition-complete Messenger available on-line. The editors, along with Council, were surprised at the number of Messenger copies still being mailed out. Whelen Engineering donates printing of 150 copies. Approximately 8 are given to staff members, 110-115 are being sent first class, and 10 are placed in the Narthex for church visitors. Members/friends asking for the Messenger to be mailed were asked to make a donation for mailing costs (\$8.00). Council was concerned that only 7-8 members actually paid for the mailing. Since it's approximately \$70 to mail the Messenger each month, the church budget has been impacted (YTD mailing cost is \$684.70) as there was not a line item budgeted for mailing. A motion was made

by Fran to allow the editors to include in the Messenger mailing options available and asking members to re-up subscription mailing donation for 2011. It was seconded by Ruth, which passed by unanimous vote. There is still a question regarding subscription vs. gratis and guidelines which should be used and if the Messenger is informational or yearbook of church. Discussion will continue at Church Council regarding these issues.

Cemetery – No representative or report.

Christian Education – Sybil said they have been working on the digital covenant rules (internet safety) for DRCC's Safe Church Policy. Sybil will meet on behalf of the Board and review the policy with Rev. Haut. The Digital Covenant will be brought to Council in December for review.

Christian Service – Emily & Gerry spoke on behalf of Christian Service. "Tools of Hope/Blanket" card campaign will be held on November 22nd and November 28th. It was noted, however, that the cards are available for purchase year round. Right after this mission, the Giving Tree will be erected. The 6th/7th grades have been making gift cards for the tree. The 6/7th prepared dinner for the Eddy Shelter this past Sunday and some of the kids will be serving at the Eddy Shelter on Wednesday. Emily said that she, Dorothy DeMichael, and Sybil will be working with the Confirmands as well on getting the group together and sponsoring a meal for the Eddy Shelter.

Church Delegates – No rep or report. Rev. Haut said that there is a meeting on November 15th and delegates will be attending.

Council Members at Large – Fred mentioned about the gap in the floor near the new organ. Richard Higgins will be asked to review and repair. Laurie had no report.

Deaconry – Heidi said that the Hanging of the Greens will be on 11/27 at 9:30am with the Advent Eve pot luck supper at 5pm. There will be a New Member Orientation on 12/8 and New Members Sunday on 12/12. They are planning for Laity Sunday on 1/23 as well.

Historical Committee – No rep or report.

Senior Minister – Rev. Tim had 7 funerals, 2 baptisms, held the Blessing of the Animals and a healing service, and has been attending Confirmation classes, which are well underway. He has been planning activities for the month of November. Tim mentioned that the Community Thanksgiving will be held in the afternoon on Nov. 21st at Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek in Chester. All Saints Sunday is Nov. 7th and he reminded members of the Annual Budget Meeting on Nov. 14th right after church service. Rev. Haut also thanked Pam Visel and Heidi Lee for aiding the Thule Swize group in a time of need when their van broke and need housing for one evening.

Director of Christian Education – Sybil noted that Teen Issues had their annual walk to the church cemetery on Sunday. All classes had homemade treats and the Board provided juice for the UNICEF party. The Halloween parade went well and the 8th grade did a great job with the Children's Sermon. Sybil noted that the 6/7th grades prepared food on Sunday for the Eddy Shelter and will be working with Christian Service on serving the meal on Wednesday. The 8th grade Sunday School Food Challenge is on Sunday 11/7. The youth have challenged adult members/friends to see who can bring in more food for the newly expanded food pantry in Deep River. The hat and mitten collection has been going on for a month and donations will be given to the Board of Christian Service for distribution. Sybil is still in the process of planning and getting talent for the Harvest Dinner, with proceeds going to the Youth Mission Fund.

Director of Youth and Family Ministry – Emily has been working with/in contact with Mission Trip leaders and both trip plans have been running smoothly. She is excited and encouraged that everything is running smoothly. Emily gave an update that currently there are 19 "deposit paid" participants of the NOLA trip and that at least 27 teens+ have shown interest.

MOTION: Deb made a motion to accept the application by Amanda Higgins to allow church sponsorship for the NOLA trip to be held from July 16-23, 2011 with Amanda Higgins and Marjorie Russell as trip leaders. Fran seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

There was a discussion regarding if \$500 was a firm number of if additional "out of pocket" expenses would raise the cost. Deb noted that she was in contact with Amanda and she felt that this amount was adequate based on church assistance they would receive based on fundraising efforts.

Emily and Deb will work together on publicity for the trip in January and Emily will set-up a "work board" for teens in which members can place an advertisement looking for work to be done so individual teens can earn money for the trip. It was noted that we must be careful and that Safe Church Policies must be followed.

Jane and Pam gave an update on the El Salvador trip: there are 10 teens and 3 adults going on the trip. The 3rd adult is Luther Moen. The cost of the trip is \$1300/person (paid by individuals) and there is a potential for an extra \$150/pp that might be needed. They are looking at fundraising \$100 to help offset costs. A calendar has been set-up with meeting dates and deadlines for payments, etc.

MOTION: A motion was made by Pam to allow for a collection of items needed for the village in El Salvador from May 8-29, 2011. It was seconded by Jane, which passed by unanimous vote. The trip is scheduled for July 2-10, 2011.

The Middlesex Clergy will again be sponsoring "No Room at the Inn" on January 29th, 2011. Sr. PF are invited and Jr. PF members can only attend if a parent/guardian is present. Emily held a service at Essex Meadows on Oct 18th for Tim. Cheryl (intern) and Emily will be officiating services on Nov. 28. The Playground group is going well and she and Sybil have been continuing their work with the Confirmation classes.

Youth Groups – Emily said that the Crop Walk was well organized and received and she thanked Cheryl and Bess(Joy) for making the event run so smoothly.

Joy - Cheryl and Bess have planned a Nov. 14th event called "Giving Thanks and Giving Back" where the kids will visit a convalescent home. The group will also will be participating on Dec. 12th in a living manger scene and will sit amongst the animals.

Jr. PF – Will participate in Tree of Living Conference in Old Lyme and Harvest Dinner.

Sr. PF - Will participate in Tree of Living Conference in Old Lyme and Harvest Dinner.

Nominating – Fran asked that representatives of all committees/boards confirm with their members if they will be staying on.

MOTIONS: The following motions were made by Deb, seconded by Fred and passed by unanimous decision:

To nominate Scott Miller to fulfill the term of Sam Alsback on Deacons.

To nominate Anne Bartlett to fulfill the term of Brenda Kollmer on Deacons.

Stewardship – Dale reported that the main part of the stewardship campaign is complete. We believe it has been well received based on the feedback we have received. We made changes based on feedback in previous years. A couple of things that we would change would be to get a copy of the pledge card in the October Messenger and to design the card differently so that it is easier to read. There has been some uncertainty about when to turn in your pledge card since we didn't do a Commitment Sunday. We expect people will get used to the new way and respond earlier in future campaigns. Thirty-nine pledge cards were received on Sunday October 31st that totaled \$56,328. This gives us about 70 pledge responses for total so far of about \$106,000 which is about 47% of the goal of \$225,553. The pledge count does not include the teen pledges, but the money does. This is because of what we refer to as pledging units. We are preparing a letter to go out to those who haven't responded and to those behind on their 2010 pledge (Claudia will complete this task). We are planning for the letter to be send first class mail and be received before the November 14th budget meeting. Calls to

those who pledged in 2009 and 2010 but not 2011 will be called the last week in Nov., 1st week in December. We are planning to call those who haven't responded to get additional commitments. We would like Trustee's help with this.

Trustees – Jack said that the church currently has a \$20,000 shortfall. In regards to the 2011 budget, there has been an increase in health insurance, oil, electric item lines; no salary increases. Jack said that the Trustees will have to wait for the reaction to the budget from members on 11/14. There will have to be some adjustments made to set-up faire near the new sliding doors on the stage. Railings will be added to the front of the church steps near Church Street, and on November 22nd, members from Stewardship will attend part of the Trustee's meeting. *Please also note Council-Members-At-Large repair.*

Women's Fellowship – Sybil and Nancy had no report. They welcome NEW leadership.

Faire/Flea/Craft – No reps or reports.

Pastoral Relations – Tim noted that there is a full committee for Seminary Student Support.

Personnel – Nancy had no report.

Outdoor Ministry – No rep or report.

Old Business – Deb presented Church Council copies of suggestions to update forms used for collections and fundraising events for church activities. Also included in the packet was a form for Church Service Volunteer Hours which needs to be completed by church members wishing to apply for a scholarship. Members reviewed the updates. A motion was made by Deb to accept the changes as written. The motion was seconded by Fran, which passed by unanimous vote. Forms will be posted on the church website and available in the church office.

New Business – Heidi brought up that members should be cautious when giving out telephone numbers and e-mails on the church website. There was an incident where someone contacted her for money, finding her name and phone number on the church website via the Messenger. Sybil stated that she did have a conversation with the Messenger Editors about this subject prior to this incident and concurs that phone numbers should be not posted as well as e-mail addresses without permission from the person. This will be addressed in the digital covenant the BoCE is working on.

Rev. Timothy Haut gave the closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Deb van Wyngaarden

Church Clerk