

(Minutes are subject to approval at the next Church Council Meeting.)

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, October 4, 2010

The Regular Meeting of the Church Council, 1st Congregational Church of Deep River, was called to order at 7:35pm in the Upper Room. Council nominated Timothy Haut to be moderator as Bob Butkus could not be in attendance.

Members in attendance: Jayne G. Mather, Laurie Eriksson, Dale Winchell, Rev. Timothy Haut, Nancy Peluso, Emily Bjornberg, Gerry Nolin, Val Nucci, Sybil Higgins, Heidi Lee, and Deb Van Wyngaarden

Rev. Timothy Haut opened with a prayer.

The minutes of the regular meeting of Monday September 13, 2010, were unanimously approved with the following omission: Under Trustees delete all *italic* wording.

Collector's Report - As of September 30, 2010 \$165,694.25 has been turned over to the General Fund. Of that amount \$1,570 is advanced 2010 pledges received in 2009 and \$132,031.98 received in 2010 for a total of \$133,601.98 or 58% of amount budgeted for pledge goal. The total of Prayed For to date is \$29,857.73 or 99% of amount budgeted. NOTE: The 2010 budget pledge goal is \$229,358 however pledges received for 2010 are only \$183,209.

Treasurer's Report – The following report is as of September 20, 2010: Burroughs Savings Account (Repairs & Maintenance)-\$1850.24; Cemetery Fund-\$9790.23; Debit Card Account-\$486.79; Doris Pelton Memorial Fund-<\$455.00>*; General Fund-\$28,562.85¹; Gifts & Bequests-\$50,634.52; Good Samaritan-\$5582.57; Grohs Investments Fund (for CD-3yr. term)-\$4000.00; Grohs Savings Fund (for various CE expenses)-\$3786.49; 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-17,275.71¹; Phelps Savings CD-\$5796.10; Phelps Savings (Music) \$2156.11; Program Maintenance Savings-\$8558.31; Sabbatical Fund-\$6200.34; Samuel F. Snow Fund-\$1011.91; Stephen Ministry Fund-\$2271.95; Supplemental Health Insurance (6 month CD)-\$25,908.53; and Youth Music Fund-\$827.02.

¹ \$3378 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 for Board of Deacon use.

*Gift to the fund which was to be paid by 2009 year end.

Messenger mailing costs: Month-\$70.15. YTD-\$614.55* (See new business)

Cemetery – Val noted that all is quiet at the church cemetery and the committee will again be planting bulbs in the Fall.

Christian Education – Sybil reported for the committee. The board talked about the Mission Fair ways to improve and ideas for new booths. It was mentioned that Maureen Douglas did a fantastic job coordinating the event. There were no additional expenses so \$932.31 has been deposited into the Youth Mission trip account. They are getting ready for the Halloween parade and UNICEF Sunday. The 8th grade will be giving the children's sermon. Stella is leaving the board and they will need someone to fulfill her term on the board. Getting enough volunteers to comply with Safe Church policy has been an ongoing problem. The board will be asking church members who don't have kids in Sunday School to volunteer as classroom aides.

Christian Service – Gerry said that they raised \$90 in the cake walk at the Mission Fair. They will be hosting a reception after the Thula Sizwe concert. Gerry mentioned that Christian Service would like to

have a list of fundraisers/events raising items. The monthly collections are on-line and available in the office. Kris has a book in her office where she logs fundraiser/events. Deb will ask her to make a copy for CS and if there's event/fundraiser added, she place a copy of the updated list in the CS mail slot. They will have a giving tree again this year and will be holding the blanket mission in November. They will be going to the Eddy Shelter this Wednesday to provide dinner; this is a mission that is held the 1st Wednesday of the month. Cathy Smith gives updates on the projects she is working on to CS so they can relay information to Church Council. The backpack program has been expanded to the tri-town area and is financially sound. The Angel Food ministry is on hold as the church that sponsored the program as a distribution point has stopped its sponsorship.

There was a concern that members are not following church policy that was passed in 2009 regarding fundraising and do not complete the necessary paperwork to hold the fundraiser/event (pecan sales for example). Members are reminded that a Fundraiser/Event Request must be completed and submitted to Church Council for approval.

MOTION: Gerry made a motion to hold a skate night in January 2011 to raise money for Christian Service to supplement their budget. It was seconded by Emily, which passed by unanimous vote. Paperwork will be completed once a date is set.

Church Delegates – There was no representative or report.

Council Members at Large – Laurie had no report.

Deaconry – Heidi said they held the bake sale at the Mission Fair and raised over \$400. They helped with the River Service, are getting ready for Homecoming Sunday and will be hosting coffee hour that day. Kris already sent out letters and name tags are done. The board will soon be planning advent and Christmas activities. There will be a Thanksgiving interfaith service in November (location to be determined) and Laity Sunday is January 23rd.

Historical Committee – There was no representative or report. It was noted that some of the aprons purchased will be made into bible book bags and sold at the Christmas Faire to help recoup 175th anniversary expenses.

Senior Minister –Rev. Tim said the Mission Fair was a great opening to the fall season and that he hopes everyone goes to the website and views the 3 minute video clip Luther Moen made. It truly showed the spirit of the day. Blessing of the Animals was on Saturday and a video clip is on-line as well. Sybil will place the video on the church web site as well. Confirmation classes have started and Sybil and Emily held the orientation class and this past Sunday Rev. Tim, Sybil, Emily, the confirmands (15 kids) and mentors went to the church property in the woods. Homecoming Sunday is this Sunday and Tim will be officiating both services. Thula Sizwe will be here from October 16th - 20th. The fire department will be honored on Oct. 24th. The Healing Service will be held on Wednesday, October 20th. The Bible Study group is starting up with Carol Sheriden running the group. The Stewardship Committee is gearing up and will presenting "Building God's Family". The Annual meeting of the CT Conference will be held on October 22nd and 23rd in Middletown. Rev. Tim gave a brief background of Cheryl Anderson, our seminary student this year.

Director of Christian Education –Sybil said they are gearing up for UNICEF Sunday as well as the Halloween Parade on October 31st. The 8th grade will be doing the sermon. Sybil was pleased that 48 youth attended the 1st youth communion of the year. The Sunday school will be collecting hats and mittens again this year and Sybil asks that CS let her know what organization will receive the donations this year. The 6/7 grade are working on making the tags for the Giving Tree. This is just a few of the collections that CEEd and CS do together. Sybil mentioned about the lower attendance in Sunday School and the correlation with the empty pews. Not sure what is going on (sports, etc.) and they will be monitoring attendance in the coming weeks. She has spoken with the Board about having a "bring a

friend to Sunday School". The Harvest Dinner theater is gearing up and she and Emily are actively seeking participants for the evening. Proceeds from the event go towards Youth Mission trips.

Director of Youth and Family Ministry – Emily said the playground group is going well. She is enjoying her class at the Hartford Seminary. She mentioned that she thought the participants of the Pittsburgh trip did a great job running the service and doing the sermon. The Mission trip information meeting was well attended and 12 different mission trips were presented. During the month of October, Emily will be reviewing interest in each of the trips. Emily enjoyed sharing our church with her mom on the 26th and she appreciated the opportunity. On the 28th, a discussion of Three Cups of Tea was held with low attendance. Emily hopes to see if there is interest in holding another discussion. Emily came to the stewardship committee meeting to see if youth could play a part in the campaign. Though the campaign is already set, Deb told Emily 2 or 3 could help out. Emily is looking forward to working with the Middlesex Clergy Group again (last year they worked together on "No Room at the Inn"). She also mentioned that David will be reworking his ordination paper and is well on his way to final ordination.

MOTION: Emily made a motion to accept the paperwork for church members to participate in a mission trip from July 2-10 in San Salvador, El Salvador. There will be between 12-15 people participating. Jane Moen and Pam Visel are trip co-leaders. It is the expectation that each family will fund their own trip. The cost is approximately \$1300. The motion was seconded by Gerry, which passed by unanimous vote.

There was a discussion about fundraising and that a possible Job Bank board will be in place at the church (Sybil said that part of the Sunday School board in Fellowship Hall could be used). Once ideas are put in place (and safe church policy reviewed), Deb will get the ball rolling.

Youth Groups – Emily reported for the groups. All the groups will be participating in the CROP Walk on October 17th in Colchester, which happens to be Cheryl Anderson's home church. Cheryl is looking at getting the youth groups from her church together with DRCC youth.

Joy - Cheryl and Bess held their 1st get-together and played get to know you games.

Jr. PF – See below.

Sr. PF – Youth have the opportunity to participate in the Tree of Life Program in November.

Nominating – There was no report or representative.

Stewardship – Deb and Dale were present. They told Council about the 4 week campaign. The theme is "Building God's Family". They hope the changes instituted this year will be well received. There will be no buttons nor an "official" commitment Sunday where members walk up to the front of the church with their pledge cards.

Trustees – Jayne said the Board met on September 13th and continue the budget process on October 6th. Recent projects completed on church properties include: new collapsible curtains in Fellowship Hall, storage cabinets throughout the church (thanks to Richard Higgins) and the gap around new organ has been fixed (thanks to Richard again), a new fence at the parsonage, the parsonage garage was painted and some tree trimming was completed.

- The Investment Committee met. The portfolio is managed by Essex Financial Services. The current portfolio has \$454,547 in it. \$1700 is given monthly to the General Fund. Over the last 3 months returns were 2.11% and over the last year 8.55%.
- Kitchen Committee – Sybil had no report.

Women's Fellowship – Sybil and Nancy had no report. There is still a need for new leadership.

Faire/Flea/Rummage – No representatives or reports.

Pastoral Relations – No representative or report.

Personnel – Jayne said they held a September meeting. After reviewing the 2010 budget and the anticipated \$20-40,000 shortfall, the Personnel Committee is recommending a 0% increase for personnel.

MOTION: Jane made a motion to approve a 0% increase in raises for personnel. Deb made an amendment to the motion that if the 2010 year-end budget ends with a windfall, proceeds go towards church personnel bonuses. Church Council also recommends that if pledges exceed the 2011 pledged amount, that Personnel and Trustees review raises for church personnel. It was seconded by Gerry, which passed by unanimous vote.

Council thanked the Trustees for their hard work; everyone knows they had hard choices to make.

Outdoor Ministry – No representative or report given.

Old Business – Gerry Nolin asked that a reminder about internet messages to church members and their appropriateness. Deb will place an article in the bulletin in Messenger regarding internet use on behalf of Church Council.

New Business –

There was a question regarding costs and amount of content in the Messenger. Church Council requests a report from editors on paid vs. donated mailings as well as number of pages in the Messenger from January through October, 2010.

Council discussed the content on the Messenger and how it might be condensed. Ideas included an on-line edition with more information. Sybil noted that October's Messenger actually had a larger on-line version than the printed one sent out. On the back page of the hardcopy Messenger could be wording like: "There's even more in our online edition. Visit our website at ...: There was also a suggestion that rather than sending the Messenger by e-mail to members, to save bandwidth it is noted in the body of the e-mail that the Messenger is now on-line on the church website.

Council also discussed that there is no defined purpose of the Messenger; is it a history of the church or is it informational. Church Council felt that there should be some editorial freedom for the editors regarding editing articles, content and placement. Council would like an update from editors once they have a chance to meet. Council is appreciative of all the work that goes into putting out the Messenger.

Timothy Haut gave the closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Deb Van Wyngaarden

Church Clerk