

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

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday, September 13, 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: Jane Moen, Bob Butkus, Laurie Eriksson, Nancy Peluso, Pam Visel, Emily Bjornberg, Fred Phinney, Fran Phinney, Cathy Smith, Heidi lee, Dorothy DeMichael, Tim Haut, Val Nucci, Sybil Higgins, and Deb Van Wyngaarden, Clerk.

Rev. Timothy Haut opened with a prayer.

A motion was made by Bob Butkus to alter the agenda to accommodate three church members who were presenting to Council. It was seconded by Deb Van Wyngaarden, which passed by unanimous vote.

Pam Visel and Jane Moen spoke about the recent youth mission trip to Pennsylvania. Participants will be doing the church service and sermon on Sunday, September 19th. The Youth Mission page will be updated on the website to include the amounts of food collected and other information regarding the trip. Next Sunday, there will be a mission meeting after church in the sanctuary. A wide variety of trip opportunities will be reviewed; both short and long-term trips. Please plan to attend (all ages) to see if any of the missions might interest you. Jane mentioned that she submitted a request to the Board of Trustees to add a "mission expense line" in the budget to show a commitment the church has to the mission work members do. Val Nucci mentioned that a "job bank" should be in place so that individual kids (and adults) can raise additional funds. Everyone in attendance thought it was a great idea and that it will be brought forth to the participants of mission trips.

Pam V. mentioned that there is still a need for housing for 4 days for Thule Sizwe members. If you would like to be a host, please contact her.

Cathy Smith reported for the Christmas Faire: Nov. 30th is set-up, Dec 4th is the faire, and Dec. 5th is the Holiday Concert. Cathy stressed the need for interested members of the church to step forward NOW and help with the Christmas Faire as there will be a need for committee members next year as there will be only 1 person (who is new) on the faire committee as Kathy Alsop and herself will be ending their service with the committee. The Reindeer Restaurant will go forward as Rebecca Mineau has volunteered to run the restaurant. Cathy has some questions about Devonshire Gardens; names and information was given to her by Council members.

Bob Butkus made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of Monday, June 7, 2010 as printed. It was seconded by Fran Phinney, which passed by unanimous vote.

Collector's Report - As of August 31, 2010, \$144,106.81 has been turned over to the General Fund. Of that amount \$1,570 is advanced 200 pledges received in 2009 and \$114,815.66 received in 2010 for a total of \$116,385.66 or 51% of amount budgeted for pledge goal. The total of Prayed For to date is \$25,572.86 or 86% of amount budgeted.

NOTE: The 2010 budget pledge goal is \$229,358 however pledges received for 2010 are only \$183,209. Deb mentioned that only 1 pledge was received after summer mailing.

Treasurer's Report – The following report is as of August 31, 2010: Burroughs Savings Account (Repairs & Maintenance)-\$2085.24; Cemetery Fund-\$9790.23; Debit Card Account-\$486.79; Doris Pelton Memorial Fund-<\$455.00>*; General Fund-\$22,548.17¹; Gifts & Bequests-\$52,764.52; Good Samaritan-\$5398.57; 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)-\$468.38; Liberty Bank CD (insurance reimbursement from silver)-\$0²; Macgregor Fund (outdoor ministry)-\$41.27; Memorial Fund-\$6411.01; Mission Fund-16,503.67; Phelps Savings CD-\$5796.10; Phelps Savings (Music) \$2156.11; Program Maintenance Savings-\$8105.80; 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.

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

¹\$2961 of balance is restricted with funds donated for specific use (wedding fees, funeral fee, etc.)

² \$0 balance was a Certificate of Deposit disbursed to General Funds as of 6/1/2020 for Board of Deacon use.

Messenger Costs - Mailing: Month-\$70.15 and YTD-\$544.40

Cemetery – Val had no report.

Christian Education – Sybil reported. Since electronic media is such a huge part of our everyday lives, Safe Church Policy is being updated. Registration sign-ups have been going great and members of the committee will be in Fellowship Hall for late sign-ups as well as getting volunteers in classrooms to follow Safe Church Policy. The 11th annual Mission Fair went well and proceeds collected were \$932, not including expenses. The Committee thanks everyone who participated in the event. The money received will be deposited in the Youth Mission Trip fund.

Christian Service –Dorothy noted that CS was in charge of the cake walk at the Mission Fair. They are continuing preparing meals once a month for the Eddy Shelter in Middletown. There have been issues with the shelter informing residents when DRCC will be coming and they are working on that issue. The Board currently has \$870 to help purchase items to prepare food for the shelter and have also used items from the DR Pantry, but they might be looking at having a fundraiser in the future should funds be depleted. Dorothy mentioned that they received a \$300 private donation.

Church Delegates – No representative or report was given.

Council Members at Large – Fred mentioned issue with the Horseshoe League and the removal of the "posts" before the Flea Market. The Trustees have been informed about the issue (lost quite a few vendor spaces) and for next year it is requested that the Trustees give written notice to the league on when the posts must be removed. There was also an issue with getting tables from Lower Fellowship hall for the flea market as

well. AA didn't let church members take the tables. This issue must also be addressed and if during the week of the Faire, AA is not able to use the facility. Trustees need to contact AA to resolve this matter. Council members also feel that the Trustees should post building usage requirements on line. A word of thanks goes to Bill West for Chairing the Flea Market and he has offered his services to Chair the event again next year. Deb will make sure minutes are posted on the bulletin board across from the kitchen. There was also mention that Amanda Higgins does a lot and she should be recognized for what she does for the Church. Laurie had no report.

Deaconry – Heidi reported that the summer services went well. The Board took turns covering Deacon on Call. They are preparing for Homecoming Sunday on Oct. 10th and Oct. 3rd is World Communion Sunday. Future planning includes advent activities.

Historical Committee – No representative or report was given.

Senior Minister –Tim said that it was a great trip to the Dominica Republic; there's an article in Ink Magazine that is distributed at various retailers. Thanked both David Johnson (our recent intern) and Emily for the support they gave this summer. Tim noted that David finished his ordination paper. Tim believes that we have another great seminary student in Cheryl Anderson; he also appreciates that a seminary student is in the budget as a line-item. Rev. Carleen Gerber, Associate Pastor of the 1st Congregational Church in Old Lyme will be preaching at both services on September 26th. She will be speaking about her church's travelling seminars to The Holy Lands. in 2 weeks. He mentioned that Confirmation classes will be starting up soon and he along with Sybil and Emily are preparing for the classes. Saturday, October 2nd will be our church's annual Blessing of the Animals at 10am outside the Sanctuary. On Oct. 10th, the bell choir will be celebrating their 40th anniversary and it's Homecoming Sunday as well. There's a special concert for the bells that afternoon. As Pam mentioned earlier, the Thule Sizwe group will perform at the Church Saturday, October 16th. They will also be joining us at our church service on the 17th. CT Conference is in Middletown next weekend and Tim will be attending. The Annual Walking Tour of Fountain Hill Cemetery on Saturday, October 30th, with Pastor Tim as your "ghoul" guide. Lastly, Sunday, Oct. 31st is UNICEF Sunday.

Director of Christian Education – Sybil said that VBS was hugely successful with 48 children participating. She noted that what makes this program unique is that it is headed up by a young member of our church and teens. The teacher workshop went well in August and she is pleased to say that there is a full teaching staff. Sybil handed out 64 Faithful Attendance Awards on Sunday and that for the 1st day of Sunday School 2010-2011 enrollment was down to 112. She and the Christian Board of Education will be monitoring numbers. Teen Issues started off great with 31 kids and 2 alumnae in attendance as well as a call from an alumnus from college. In order to save on printing costs, there will be no welcome bags given out as Sunday School continues its efforts on going green. The Sunday School Parent Handbook and various forms are on the Church website. Copies are available in Sybil's office should someone not have access to the internet. UNICEF collection boxes will be passed out to children during Sunday School. The school kit collection is going great as we changed collecting to coincide with sales at retailers for back to school supplies. Nov. 7th is the annual Harvest Dinner Theater, with proceeds to help with Youth Missions. Sybil is organizing the event on behalf of the Jr. & Sr. PF groups with Emily.

Director of Youth and Family Ministry – Emily oversaw two services over the summer as well as held a service at Essex meadows. Emily was in Old Lyme on August 15th helping Rev. Carleen Gerber, Associate Pastor of the 1st Congregational Church in Old Lyme (and Em's mom) with her service and on September 26th, we welcome Rev. Gerber as she speaks about her church's travelling seminars to The Holy Land. Emily thanked everyone involved in the "painting/house" makeover for the Alsback family the weekend of August 6th. The girls and Melissa can't thank everyone enough for what they did for them. Emily is taking a class from a former professor of hers at the Harford Seminary. The class is called "Interfaith Perspectives on Global Poverty in the 21st Century." Our church is sponsoring the Community Wide Read – 3 Cups of Tea discussion on September 28th at 11am and on Sept. 29th at 7pm in the Upper Room of the church.

Youth Groups –

Joy – Beth Ensinger and Cheryl Anderson volunteers. They already have their year-calendar planned and the events look great.

Jr. PF – Andrea Chiappa and Emily will be in charge of this group. Hopefully another parent or two will step forward and help volunteer.

Sr. PF – Gina Sopenski, Melissa Alsback, Ben and Andrea Chiappa and Emily will head up this group.

They will be participating in the CROP Walk and Tree of Life program on Nov. 6 and 7th.

MOTION: To allow participants of the CROP Walk in Colchester on October 17th to collect funds for this event. Emily made the motion, seconded by Fran, and passed by unanimous vote. Emily will submit necessary paperwork to church office on Monday.

Nominating – Fran had no report.

Stewardship – Deb said the group has been holding meetings to finalize plans for the 2011 stewardship campaign. As you can see from the Collector's report, we're still behind in pledges for 2010. The events are: 10/10-kickoff, 10/17-official presentation, 10/24-update; and 10/31-Celebration Sunday for everyone in the church. There will not be buttons this year, campaign has been decreased from 6 weeks to 4 weeks, members who "promise" money will place their cards in a replica of the church in the narthex upon leaving the service. Campaign this year is "Building God's Family".

Trustees – No representative or report was given. *It was noted by Council members that when the Trustees meeting was over (prior to Church Council), no Trustee came to the Council Meeting to give a report.*

- Kitchen Committee – Dorothy and Sybil passed state certification. The committee spent hours rearranging, putting things away and cleaning. They gave special thanks to Jack Coulter, Don Grohs and Roger Cole for helping out in the kitchen. The 1st inspection was great with only 3 points taken off. The Committee reminds members of the Church that items cannot be donated to the kitchen; they must be commercial grade equipment and supplies only. Also, if items are left in the refrigerator, they must be marked with date opened and what/who it is for. Items unmarked or expired will be disposed of. The Kitchen Committee will be adding a section to the Church Website regarding policy and usage. Sybil asked that a Funeral Committee Member be on the Kitchen Committee so that they can follow policy. There was a question about bake sales and it's ok with the health inspector for we are a non-profit organization. The

Committee also wanted to make Church members aware that the wire storage racks, removed from the kitchen, were not useable in the kitchen and are being used by the Faire Committee for storage units. Also, the freezer, with the doors removed, is now being used as storage because the cost of repairing the unit (which was unusable for a few years) was cost prohibited.

Women's Fellowship – Nancy and Sybil had no report.

Faire/Flea/Rummage – Sybil showed a bag that will be sold at the Faire. There are so many aprons left over that new uses for them were needed. Sybil's friend made a "bible" carry bag.

Pastoral Relations – No representative or report was given. It was noted that a sub-committee has not yet been formed as liaisons to our new seminary intern.

Personnel – Nancy noted that they will be meeting later in the month.

Outdoor Ministry – No representative or report given.

Old Business – None.

New Business –

MOTION: To allow Sunday School children and adults to collect money for UNICEF on October 31st, 2010. Motion made by Sybil, seconded by Fran, and passed by unanimous vote. Paperwork was completed.

MOTION: To approve the Harvest Dinner Theater to be held on Nov. 7th to raise funds with the Jr. & Sr. P.F. for 2011 Youth Mission Trips. Motion made by Sybil, seconded by Deb, and passed by unanimous vote. Paperwork was completed.

Rev. Haut closed the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Deb van Wyngaarden

Church Clerk