

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES Monday, June 6, 2011

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

Members in attendance: Heidi Lee, Emily Bjornberg, Jane Moen, Nancy Peluso, Laurie Eriksson, Fran Phinney, Fred Phinney, Jack Coulter, Amanda Higgins, Sybil Higgins, Rev. Haut, Bob Butkus, and Deb Van Wyngaarden, Clerk.

Rev. Haut opened with a prayer.

A motion was made by Bob Butkus to change the Agenda so Rev. Haut could attend and be with family members during calling hours for a community member held in the DRCC sanctuary. It was seconded by Heidi Lee, which passed by unanimous vote.

Senior Minister Report - Rev. Haut noted that the end-of-year activities are proceeding smoothly. Last Sunday he assisted the 15 confirmands in making their stoles, he worked with the 3rd grade class in preparing to receive their bibles, and he presided over several funerals in May. Rev. Haut gave a special thanks to Bevan Crighton, the stepfather of church member Deb Brown who painted a portrait of him. Tim also gave an update on Martin Bjornberg Haut. He also thanked the Deacons and Emily B. for scheduling guest ministers for the summer and he is looking forward to his summer sabbatical.

The minutes of the regular meeting of Monday, May 2, 2011 were unanimously approved as printed.

Collector's Report - As of May 31, 2011, \$115,385.73 has been turned over to the General Fund. Of that amount \$1,780.00 is advanced 2011 pledges received in 2010 and \$95,850.47 received in 2011 for a total of \$97,630.47 or 43% of amount budgeted for pledge goal. The total of Prayed For to date is \$15,222.00 or 43% of amount budgeted.

It was noted by Jack that we received a substantial pledge in a lump sum thus the 43% for pledge goal budget may be deceiving.

Treasurer's Report – The following report is as of May 31, 2011: Burroughs Savings Account (Repairs & Maintenance)-\$3611.13; Cemetery Fund-\$9,480.60; Debit Card Account-\$1385.26; Doris Pelton Memorial Fund-\$45.33; General Fund-\$27,803.44; Gifts & Bequests-\$49,609.71; Good Samaritan-\$7617.99; Grohs Investments Fund (for CD-3yr. term)-\$4000.00; Grohs Savings Fund (for various CE expenses)-\$2950.40; Haut Fund (Ministerial Scholarship Fund)-\$5744.39; Kitchen Fund (continuing kitchen expenses)-\$919.33; Macgregor Fund (outdoor ministry)-<\$462.28>*; Memorial Fund-\$6915.39; Mission Fund-\$35,723.98; Phelps Savings CD-\$5802.64; Phelps Savings (Music) \$1923.41; Program Maintenance Savings-\$8601.00; Sabbatical Fund-\$6902.78; Samuel F. Snow Fund-\$1012.27; Stephen Ministry Fund-\$2642.02; Supplemental Health Insurance (6 month CD)-\$21,606.83; and Youth Music Fund-\$833.35.

*The negative balance is due to deposit for Men's Hike; will be reimbursed by fees from participants.

Cemetery – No representative or report.

Christian Education – Laurie E. reported that the Mission Fair will be on September 11th and thanked those committees/boards who have responded; they will be doing follow-up with those who have not responded. Confirmation Sunday is June 12. Laurie has ordered an additional Confirmation cake to our

order due to Grace's injury. The BoCE will slice cakes at 9am and put on rolling carts to be moved in from kitchen after the service. The Board thanked Dorothy DeMichael and Heidi Lee for offering to prepare Confirmation lunch. Children's/Teacher Appreciation Sunday is June 19. The balloons and ribbon are set and bulletin covers are in progress. The Board will arrive at 6:30 a.m. to blow up balloons. They discussed the "hang out room"/library being used by kids during Sunday School. They felt that during the Sunday School program, teens have several alternatives during this time: Teen Issues, stay in church, and volunteer in a Sunday School classroom. Having underage kids in that room during SS also violates safe church policies. They noted the room needs renovation but it should be a room for all, not just teens. Deb V.W. noted that when the room is in use by anyone under 18, that the door and drapes should remain open.

Christian Service – Gerry N. could not attend; Emily B. gave report. They held their last meeting and will again meet in August. They will continue the Eddy Shelter over the summer and they have offered to again do the Cake Walk for Mission Sunday.

Church Delegates – No representative or report.

Council Members at Large – Jane M. mentioned the library renovation and that once the project is "off hold" teens that use the room be able to give input to the Trustees.

Deaconry – Heidi reported that they are setting up a summer schedule of deacon coverage and guest preachers during Tim's sabbatical, and she thanked Emily for all of her help. Our usual stipend of \$125 per day for guest preachers is low compared to most area churches, who pay \$150-\$175. We asked the Trustees to look into offering a higher rate. Former interns David Johnson and Cheryl Anderson will both preach, as well as our intern for next year, Allison Glass from Killingworth. Emily will cover some Sundays, Ed Falsey will preach once, and we are still approaching ministers to fill out the rest of the schedule. A Deacon will offer the right hand of fellowship during the Confirmation service, present the confirmands with a small gift, and assist the Board of Christian Education with coffee hour. The Trustees have been asked to replace the wireless microphone sets, and are awaiting details from Luther Moen.

Historical Committee – No representative or report. Deb V.W. mentioned about the disorganization of the historical room and will see if Elyse V.W. might want to assist in straightening it.. Jack C. mentioned documents in the church safe which need to be scanned. Jane M. offered Kaylee M.'s assistance if Kris is willing to show her the process. The documents can then be taken back to the bank security box.

Senior Minister – Moved to top of agenda. See report after opening prayer.

Director of Christian Education – Sybil reported that the church was decorated with the butterflies from the Butterfly Project and over 135 butterflies made by the Sunday School and some congregational members will be shipped to Houston this summer. A six panel rainbow was hung from one end of the church to the other in culmination of Heifer Project. The 8th grade oversaw this mission and gave the final words to this year's campaign on May 15. Sybil thanks Claudia & Jon Hardy, her mother Elizabeth Root and Richard Higgins for the helping it hanging the rainbow. The tally of funds is not complete at this date, but will give that amount at the September meeting. 3rd grade completed their Bible curriculum and 12 Bibles will be awarded on Children's Sunday. Sybil also continues her work with six Troop 13 Boy Scouts on their Religious Award. Sybil has scheduled 2 "VIP" Sundays next year and the 2011-2012 Sunday School calendar is complete and will meet with Tim to review. In addition she is getting next years teacher positions filled. Children's Sunday rehearsal went well on June 5 and will be at the church on June 19 at 6:30 am to blow up the helium balloons with the BoCE in celebration of Children's Sunday. The annual teacher survey has been distributed. Sybil has talked with Tim about the suggestion that viewing windows be installed in the Sunday School classroom doors to help support

our Safe Church, especially in light of the difficulty sometimes getting Class Aides for each classroom. This idea will be discussed with the Board of Trustees and will also need to be discussed with the Church Street Child Care Director.

Vacation Bible School

Amanda reported that VBS is July 11-15. Sign up continues and there will be a fundraiser on June 19th for the free VBS we provide the community. The adult leaders for the program this summer are Gay Sherman Weintz and Nichole Gretta.

Director of Youth and Family Ministry – Emily reported that the youth groups have all ended for the year. She thanked Cheryl Anderson and Beth Ensinger for their support of Joy Fellowship. Jr. & Sr. PF ended their year on Saturday June 4th with the Camp Claire Day of Service. Emily thanked the many parents who stepped forward this year to help make the Junior and Senior PF groups possible. There were a lot of folks who did a lot of work behind the scenes to maintain both groups. The teen issues class is going to end this year with a picnic at Nancy Peluso's home. We're hoping to make this an annual tradition that will allow us to send off the seniors and mission trips with love as well as welcome the upcoming freshman class into teen issues. Two meetings with the AdHoc Fundraising Committee were held and will present her report in Old Business. The confirmands finished their last meeting and are ready to be received by the church. Emily has been working with the Deacons in securing ministers for Tim's summer sabbatical. The bulk of the Sundays will be covered by our last two seminary interns, Cheryl Anderson and David Johnson as well as our upcoming seminary intern, Allison Glass and Emily. She has also made plans for the Deacons and Stephen Ministers to assist her in any visitation needs that come up during the summer. She will take on all of Tim's commitments for preaching at local nursing homes. Kris and Emily will work together to communicate when unforeseen crises arise. Emily also noted that if an emergency arises that the Deacons, Stephen Ministry or herself cannot handle, Rev. Haut will be notified.

Amanda Higgins gave an update on the NOLA trip. Twenty or so participants attended the Camp Claire work weekend. NOLA is close to their budget goal. The letter campaign initiated by Deb V.W. and Sybil H. has been a success as the celebrity letters garnished no income and Amanda thanked them for their efforts. Jane Moen said that final flight reservations are complete for El Salvador trip, purchased trip insurance and renting an international cell phone for emergencies. They are also making final ground arrangements. Toy and medical supply drive has gone well and continue to accept donations in the collection boxes outside of Sybil's office until trip departure.

Nominating – Fran Phinney made a motion to nominate Gay Sherman Weintz for the open position on the Board of Christian Education, term ending January, 2013. It was seconded by Heidi Lee, which passed by unanimous vote.

Stewardship – Deb noted they are still working on summer letter, survey, and Fall campaign.

Trustees – Jack reported that a generous monetary gift was received by the church. It is the request of the family that it be included in the Gifts & Bequests Fund and be used at the discretion of the Trustees for projects at the Church. Examples might be the bathroom renovation or furniture for the parlor. Joy Mloznowski has been hired as the bookkeeper of CSCC as of June 1, 2011. Trustees felt the seminar on May 11 set-up by the Investment Committee regarding charitable giving was informative. Peter Rozowski is still working on plans for the bathroom to be built on the lower level of Fellowship Hall.

Kitchen Committee: Fred P. reported that on more than one occasion, the kitchen has been left in an unsatisfactory condition. The committee would like locking the kitchen to be considered. Council discussed this issue and felt that it needs to be evaluated for feasibility. They were concerned that disbursement of funds not related to kitchen improvements have been debited from the Kitchen Fund

account. It was suggested that they get copies of those items in question from the church treasurer. They also suggested that they change their name from Kitchen Committee to Kitchen Improvement Committee which represents more of our mission. This would include their line item in the financial report as well. No vote was necessary, but all were in favor of this change.

Women's Fellowship – No representative or report. Need new leadership!

Faire/Flea/Rummage – No representatives or reports.

Pastoral Relations – Heidi L. had no report.

Personnel – Nancy P. reported that they have met with most of the church personnel and will finish up this month.

Outdoor Ministry – No representative or report. A down payment for Men's Hike has been submitted. It was noted with much sadness the news of James Macgregor's passing.

Old Business –

Emily reported for the adhoc Fundraising Committee of: Sybil Higgins, Emily Bjornberg, Fran Phinney, Jane Moen, Jayne Mather, Tim Haut, Heidi Lee and Kelley Fraizer. This is their report.

1. Fundraisers that benefit individuals or non-church-related activities should not set up tables in upper fellowship hall, but rather announce their fundraiser in church and tell people to "come find them" after the service if they want to buy tickets.
2. Mission Trip leaders should meet at the beginning of September with Emily to plan out the entire year's worth of fundraisers. We would suggest one per month as being a good guideline. Each trip should report to council every month and give a progress report on fundraising and preparing for their journey. By the end of January, mission trips should try to have half their fundraising done. Emily can then give a full accounting report to both council and trustees in February.
3. We recognize that fundraising can be taxing on the congregation, the trip leaders and the parents. So we have a few suggestions that could be explored further. It might be a good idea to do one really big fundraiser per year to support all mission trips. It also might be good to ask the trustees to add a line item in the budget for one youth mission trip. It also might be a good idea to have the teens self-fund their trip rather than having the trip leaders push so much fundraising over the course of the year. Self-funded trips are easier on trip leaders and also much less taxing on the congregation.
4. Trips should be chosen by mid-September and commitments made by mid-October. This will also help families to budget for their share of the financial commitment.
5. In order to keep everyone in the loop we suggest that Emily meets with all trip leaders in September to form a plan. She will then bring that information to council and to the trustees who can be sure the projected numbers for the budget seem accurate. In February she will go back to council and to trustees to report on whether or not the fundraising is going as planned.
6. Last, we would like to ask council to form a committee that can advise all Youth Mission Trip Leaders. This committee could be called upon to help plan trips, advise leaders on their budgets, and think through how to properly prepare our teens for their mission work. We suggest a small committee that would be nominated by the nominating committee, but comprised of adults in the congregation who have a lot of experience with mission trips. Emily could then call on this committee to help vet trip plans whenever needed.

Deb V.W. commented that most of the areas were not the mission of the group as they pertain to suggestions for mission trips and not fundraising. The only points that were related to their task were 1. and part of 3. Guidelines for mission trips were to come from another group Emily was forming. Deb suggested that there not be another Committee (6.) and that Emily form a Mission Trip Advisory Group for her to utilize. Deb also suggested that two Sunday's be used as 'fundraiser Sunday's' maybe the 1st

and 3rd Sunday of the month where members can set up tables. When limiting outside groups, remember that this will affect the successful fundraising efforts Mt. Saint John's has received over the past years-Emily has established a partnership with them.

There was no resolve to the committee's report. The only resolution was that another committee should not be formed and that a Mission Trip Advisory **Group** of volunteers work with Emily on an as needed basis.

New Business – None

Emily Bjornberg gave the closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Deb van Wyngaarden

Church Clerk