

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES **Monday, May 2, 2011**

The Regular Meeting of the Church Council, 1st Congregational Church of Deep River, was called to order a 7:40pm in the Upper Room by Moderator Bob Butkus.

Members in attendance: Martha Beaudoin, Heidi Lee, Doreen Palmer, Fred Phinney, Fran Phinney, Laurie Eriksson, Jane Moen, Emily Bjornberg, Amanda Higgins, Rev. Timothy Haut, Bob Butkus - Moderator, and Deb Van Wyngaarden-Clerk.

Rev. Timothy Haut opened with a prayer.

The minutes of the regular meeting of Monday, April 4, 2011 were unanimously approved with one change: Strike "no rep" under Council Members-at-Large.

Collector's Report - As of April 30, 2011 \$96,215.14 has been turned over to the General Fund. Of that amount \$1,780 is advanced 2011 pledges received in 2010 and \$79,353.38 received in 2011 for a total of \$81,133.38 or 36% of amount budgeted for pledge goal. The total of Prayed For to date is \$12,653.00 or 37% of amount budgeted.

Japan Earthquake/Tsunami Relief: \$744
OGHS: \$2,816

MOTION: A motion was made by Martha Beaudoin to allow ticket sales to a Tea Ceremony presented by David Beaudoin to benefit the Ben's Light Fund that will be held at the church in Fellowship Hall on May 21, 2011 at 2pm. One hundred tickets will be sold at \$5 each. It was seconded by Fran Phinney, which passed by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report – The following report is as of April 30, 2011: Burroughs Savings Account (Repairs & Maintenance)-\$3608.40; Cemetery Fund-\$9652.75; Debit Card Account-\$712.62; Doris Pelton Memorial Fund-\$45.30; General Fund-\$44,983.93; Gifts & Bequests-\$49,591.11; Good Samaritan-\$7779.68; Grohs Investments Fund (for CD-3yr. term)-\$4000.00; Grohs Savings Fund (for various CE expenses)-\$2948.03; Haut Fund (Ministerial Scholarship Fund)-\$5740.05; Kitchen Fund (continuing kitchen expenses)-\$918.63; Macgregor Fund (outdoor ministry)-\$41.55; Memorial Fund-\$6810.28; Mission Fund-\$31,655.23; Phelps Savings CD-\$5802.23; Phelps Savings (Music) \$1921.96; Program Maintenance Savings-\$9119.33; Sabbatical Fund-\$6897.56; Samuel F. Snow Fund-\$1012.27; Stephen Ministry Fund-\$2640.02; Supplemental Health Insurance (6 month CD)-\$22,878.58; and Youth Music Fund-\$832.72.

Cemetery – No representative or report. Tim mentioned how beautiful the daffodils look at the church cemetery.

Christian Education – Laurie Ericksson reported that every committee/board/staff member was given a participation request letter for the Mission Fair to be held on Sunday, September 11, the first day of Sunday School. We need all boards/committees to let the Board know what they are doing prior to the end of June. Please remember to bring this up at your committee/board/staff meetings this month. The butterfly project went off without a hitch. Please see Director of Christian Education's report for more. The Board has been talking about how to improve attendance at Sunday School. A new teacher questionnaire has been developed requesting input from teachers. They are working on prep for Confirmation Sunday and Children's Sunday/Teacher Appreciation.

Christian Service – Doreen Palmer said that 64 layettes were assembled. Promoting the need for volunteers for the Eddy Shelter has garnered new participants.

Church Delegates – No representative or report. Tim noted that there are two (2) upcoming meeting: The CT Conference Spring on May 14th in Naugatuck and the Middlesex Association on May 18 in Clinton.

Council Member at Large – Jane Moen mentioned that the library has become a "catch-all" storage area. She felt that the library could use a little sprucing up. After discussion, Tim will ask the librarians to streamline the book selection; Emily will lend support as needed. It was also discussed that many areas have become "catch-all" areas and items are now needed to be stored correctly or thrown out. Once areas have been "purged" items will be taken out to Fellowship Hall for a "take if you want" event. Anything left will be disposed of. Tim will also meet with the

Trustees to give ideas from Teens on how the library can be revamped and their willingness to assist in the "transformation".

Deaconry - Heidi Lee said that they will be keeping the four (4) ushers per week; they will just need to do more ushering. Finished duties related to Easter and the Lenten seasons. They will provide small gifts to the Confirmands and will continue the practice of making bookmarks with their names on them, with a prayer for them as well. On May 15th Deaconry will be providing snacks for Cheryl Anderson's last day as a seminary student at DRCC. They have been concerned that sometimes the prayer concerns are containing too many personal details. Tim will make an announcement encouraging members/friends to keep the prayer concerns brief and appropriate as services are recorded.

Historical – No representative or report.

Senior Minister – Rev. Haut mentioned that April was a busy month. Services were well and even better attended at certain services. He wanted to mention the Deacons and what a great job they did setting up the Easter Flowers. The Lenten suppers were great fun and thanked the Grillo's for preparing the 6/7 graders for the event. Tim had three (3) graveside funerals, one (1) wedding, and three (3) baptisms. Horseshoe league opening season blessing of the pits. He thanks everyone for the love, support and cards for Martin and Phyllis.

Director of Christian Education – Clerk read report. Youth Communion lessons were well attended with nine youth successfully completing their classes. Jeff & Linda Hostetler made bread with the 4/5th grade as part of the columniation to their lesson on Palm Sunday. The 3rd graders are continuing their 8 week Bible review lessons. The Butterfly Project kick off was May 1; Emily led the Youth Communion Service and Tim the Children's Sermon with the subject of tolerance and love to others. Every Sunday School child made a butterfly in their classrooms with their teachers. Additionally, templates and directions were available in the Fellowship Hall for congregational members to take home and make as families. They will be on display May 15. The 8th grade continues to give their weekly messages during both services regarding the Heifer Project and boxes and Giving Calendars are available in the Fellowship Hall. All will culminate on May 15. 6th/7th grade put together 65 health and 65 school kits for CWS; we thank all those who donated and made bags. The 6th/7th grade version of "Are You Smarter Than a 6th/7th Grader" show for the Lenten pot luck suppers was successful; a total of \$651.40 was raised for the Youth Mission account; we thank all who donated, participants and of course our teachers Amy & Bob Grillo for preparing this group for this challenge. I continue working with a group of Boy Scouts on their Religious Award, which consists of curriculum, bible readings and service project, which you will see the project displayed around the church shortly.

Vacation Bible School - Amanda reported that VBS is gearing up and looking for volunteers; Amanda is home now and will get things rolling along with Ashley Campbell. Jonah - An Overboard Adventure, Part II is our theme this year; all those 4 years old through entering 5th grade and eligible for this free week long bible based program starting July 11 - 15; closing program is Friday night at 6:30 pm (which is also the Friday night of the DR Muster). June 19th – Adult help is needed to fill in. Amanda and Ashley have scheduling school issues, so they are asking for adults to help. Also the conflict with the Muster event may cause parking issues.

Director of Youth and Family Ministry – Emily worked with the Confirmation group last week with Sybil. The Confirmand's Faith statements are due and she is working with some of the kids to complete this part of confirmation. Their next project is making their stoles. Emily assisted with the May 1st Youth communion with Cheryl Anderson. She attended the Joy Fellowship meeting on April 10th at the Ray of Light and it was wonderful experience for everyone that attended. Joy Fellowship ended May 1st with a closing cookout. The Camp Claire intergenerational work weekend was postponed and is now on June 4th. The NOLA group will be there learning new skills for their disaster relief mission trip. Part of their day they will join as a group working on team building skills. Emily expressed concern regarding the tragedies that our teens have faced recently. She is investigating ways to reach out to our youth to make the church make them feel even more safe. She has a few ideas in mind including a wailing wall idea. She is still working on specifics and will present her ideas more in detail at another meeting. She has met with the Teen issues class and held meetings with both El Salvador and NOLA mission trips.

Mission Trip Updates –

NOLA – Deb and Amanda met with Emily updating her on the budget. NOLA will be coordinating with Emily on a date at Camp Claire so that the kids can learn how to use power equipment, etc. prior to their trip to New Orleans. The presale of "Take a Chance" baskets went well raising \$133 in pre-sales. The group hopes to raise at least \$250 to offset the lower and expected Yankee Candle Sales. The car wash is May 14th (newspapers have responded that the press release will be in the paper) with a rain date of May 21st. Plans for the Jazz concert are well underway,

which will be Thursday, June 2nd. We continue selling stocks and will have a table on various Sunday's in Fellowship Hall until the trip. We had a nice article in the Valley Courier regarding the "Decorate a Screw" fundraiser and we thank Essex Hardware for their donation of the drywall screws.

MOTION: Deb made a motion to allow NOLA to have the Decorate a Screw fundraiser table on Children's Sunday, June 17th. It was seconded by Fran, which passed by unanimous vote.

El Salvador – The group is done with raising funds. Emily read letter from group thanking church for the funds allocated to the trip. They have received final flight information.

Nominating – Fran had no report.

Stewardship – Deb reported that no meeting was held. They will meet in May to discuss mid-term letter and Fall stewardship campaign.

Trustees – No representative or report. Tim mentioned the new flat screen television mounted on wall in the Upper Room. Tim will find where the speakers went that were attached to the old television as they were Luther Moens'. Luther M. will put together a sheet which will include technology purchase suggestions as much of the equipment used at the church belongs to him.

Kitchen Committee: Fred had nothing to report.

Women's Fellowship – Sybil and Nancy had no report. Need new leadership. Tim passed around an old photo and is seeking help in identifying who the women are in the picture.

Faire/Flea/Rummage/Craft Fair – No representatives or reports. Deb mentioned the Craft Fair this Saturday.

Pastoral Relations – Heidi Lee mentioned that they are completing the final evaluation of Cheryl Anderson, DRCC seminary student.

Personnel – No representative or report.

Outdoor Ministry – No representative or report. Tim mentioned that the Men's Hike is August 5-7, 2011 and Bill Krick is finalizing plans.

Old Business– None.

New Business– None.

Rev. Timothy Haut gave the closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Future Council Meetings

Monday, June 6, 2011

No meetings held July or August

Monday, September 12, 2011 (due to the 5th being Labor Day)

Monday, October 3, 2011

Monday, November 7, 2011

Monday, December 5, 2011

Respectfully Submitted:

Deb van Wyngaarden, Church Clerk