

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

November 7, 2011

The Regular Meeting of the Church Council, 1st Congregational Church of Deep River, was called to order at 7:35p.m. in the Upper Room by Moderator Bob Butkus.

Members in Attendance: Rev. Timothy Haut, Bob Butkus-Moderator, Fran Phinney, Emily Bjornberg, Heidi Lee, Gerry Nolin, Dorothy DeMichael, Jack Coulter, Dale Winchell, Val Nucci, Allyson Glass, Sybil Higgins, Laurie Eriksson, and Deb Van Wynaarden-Clerk.

Rev. Haut opened with a prayer.

A motion was made by Val Nucci to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Monday, October 3, 2011 with one change: CMAT should be CMAL. It was seconded by Gerry Nolin, which passed by unanimous vote.

Collector’s Report – As of October 31, 2011 \$192,573.16 has been turned over to the General Fund. Of that amount \$1,780 is advanced 2011 pledges received in 2010 and \$160,139.21 received in 2011 for a total of \$161,919.21 or 72%* of amount budgeted for pledge goal. The total of Prayed For to date is \$27,801.00 or 80% of amount pledged.

*End of October should be at 83%

Treasurer’s Report – The following report is as of October 31, 2011:

BURROUGHS SAVINGS ACCOUNTS - Repairs & Maint.	3,861.08
CEMETERY FUND	9,595.60
DEBIT CARD ACCOUNT	1,365.20
DORIS PELTON MEMORIAL ORGAN FUND	45.33
GENERAL FUND	17,932.81*
GIFTS & BEQUESTS	49,609.71
GOOD SAMARITAN	7,258.80
GROHS INVESTMENTS FUND for CE - 3yr. Term	4,000.00
GROHS SAVINGS FUND for CE - for various CE expenses	2,993.01
HAUT FUND - Ministerial scholarship fund	5,744.39
KITCHEN FUND - continuing kitchen expenses	2,509.33
MACGREGOR FUND - Outdoor Ministry	4,122.84
MEMORIAL FUND	8,955.39
MISSION FUND	18,477.12
PHELPS SAVINGS CD	5,806.46
PHELPS SAVINGS – Music	1,923.41
PROGRAM MAINTENANCE SAVINGS	9,901.04
SABBATICAL FUND	6,027.78
SAMUEL F. SNOW FUND	1,012.52
STEPHEN MINISTRY FUND	2,692.02
SUPPLEMENTAL HEALTH INSURANCE -6 month cd	21,625.69
YOUTH MUSIC FUND	833.35

Note from Treasurer: Balance of General Fund on 01/01/2011 was \$36,244.57 which indicates we have had to tap into prior year surplus. Shortfall in General Fund budget as of 10/31/2011 is \$8,551.13.

Cemetery –Val N. said that members of the committee planted spring bulbs in the church cemetery.

Christian Education –Laurie E. noted that there is a lack of volunteers for classroom aides. The Board asked Sybil H. to send out a request to the Teen Issues class to see if any teens might be interested in helping out once a month. Though some are not 18 years old, the Board felt in order to follow Safe Church guidelines ~~having~~ requiring 2 people in a room, having 1 person over 18 years old would be ok. As attendance seems to drop off in Teen Issues as the year progresses, this is a new Outreach Program to get teens not interested in the Teen Issues Program back into church. The 5/6 graders are introducing a new program: Deep River Spread Your Light for Rice on freerice.com. Free Rice allows you to participate in computer generated quizzes to earn rice for the World Food Program. It takes 2000 grains of rice to feed one person, so the 5/6 graders need your help. By joining the Deep River Spread Your Light for Rice group (no cost to participants), they can keep track of how much food is collectively raised for the world food program. Kids will be available during coffee hour to show church members how to sign up and play and they will also be doing the Children's Sermon on Sunday, 11/13 to introduce the program.

Christian Service – Gerry N. said that the Church World Service Blanket and Tools Program cards will be available for purchase in Fellowship Hall on 11/20 and 12/4 for a \$5.00 donation. Please contact Doreen Palmer with any questions. The Board will be sponsoring the Giving Tree again this year and up to 35 people will be recipients. Cindy Cosme and Dorothy DeMichael put together a donation letter for the Eddy Shelter that they would like to distribute to area businesses.

Motion: Dorothy D. made a motion to allow the Board of Christian Service to distribute a letter asking community businesses to donate monies for the purchase of new bedding items for the Eddy Shelter in Middletown. It was seconded by Gerry N. with the following stipulations: The letter must be approved by the Eddy Shelter, Dayle Larson, and John Bauer. Emily B. will also check mailing list to make sure there is not a lot of cross-over of solicitation from other programs at church.

Church Delegates –No rep or report.

Council Member At Large– No rep or report.

Deaconry–Heidi L. said they assisted with Healing Service and Homecoming Service. The Hanging of the Greens will be on 11/26 at 9am and they will be soliciting help from the congregation. There will be a Potluck Supper on the same day at 5pm followed by placing Baby Jesus in the manger (the statue has a location clip placed in it this year-ha ha). A New Member Class will take place in early 2012. The Deacons are looking at ways to help spruce up the church and their first order of business is helping clean out the Faire closet. Leftover items in the space (once everything is in the booths) will be thrown out. They are also looking at revamping the Upper Room and are seeking assistance from a few church members with background in interior design to give input. Volunteers should see Heidi L. or Scott Miller

Historical Committee –No rep or report.

Senior Minister – Rev. Haut said he resided over 4 funerals, officiated 1 wedding, and held 3 baptisms. He attended the Annual Meeting of the CT Conference on 10/23. It was noted that DRCC was the host of the CT Conference Fall training program this past Thursday. This is a required refresher course for clergy on ministry boundaries and conduct; it is required of all active clergy participating in ministry. Rev. Haut led the Fountain Hill Walking Tour with 25+ people in attendance. Rev. Haut also mentioned that Sunday School classes will not be held on 12/25 or January 1. There will only be one (1) service on those dates as well at 10:00am. He also announced that it was decided that there will be only one (1) Christmas Pageant performance this year. It will be held at 5:30pm. This decision was made due to many of the participants needing to leave after the 1st performance for family obligations.

- **Funeral Service Committee A.K.A. Hospitality Ministry** needs to be put on the front burner regarding how to handle funeral receptions at the church. There was a discussion about a brochure giving guidance to families. Fran P. will get the committee together and invite new participants and together come up with suggestions on how to move forward.

Director Christian Education –Sybil H. said there were a few extra kids on Bring a Friend to Church Day on 10/16 as well as a few extra adults. Almost every class had visitors on the VIP Sunday which was held on 10/23. On 10/30 the annual Halloween Parade and UNICEF Sunday was held. The 7th/8th grade gave the sermon and explained about UNICEF. During Sunday School classes they distributed UNICEF boxes. They also handed out reminders to the kids about the Sunday School Food vs. Adult Food Collection Challenge which took place on 11/6. The food collection challenge is in its second year and puts up a challenge to see who will bring in more food. This year the Deep River Pantry benefitted with a total of 663 items. Sybil is still working with 6 Boy Scouts on their religious awards and they should be done by the end of December. Other items discussed: Advent lesson on 11/27; hat and mitten collection has started; 11/13 is the Annual Harvest Dinner (proceeds to benefit the Youth Mission Fund), and participated in Confirmation class. The Confirmands were asked “What question would you ask God” and their responses are up in Fellowship Hall.

Director of Youth & Family Ministry—Emily B. reported for Youth Groups.

- Joy Fellowship will help organize the Deep River Food Pantry next Sunday.
- Allyson G. and Kelley Frazier held a Jr. PF Scavenger Hunt with the group. Though a low turnout, they hope to build up the group. The group has been invited to participate in and help with the Harvest Dinner Theater fundraiser on 11/13.
- Sr. PF is preparing for the Harvest Dinner Theatre. They are also preparing for the Homeless Sleep Out which will be the last Saturday in January and the Midnight Run in New York in February.

Mission Trips: There are 4 adults and 6 teens for a total of 10 participants in the El Salvador trip and the Appalachia Trip to West Virginia is 27 people strong. Emily would like to continue to solicit businesses for donations for the West Virginia trip like the one NOLA did. Last year’s donors will again be solicited. She is holding off on stock holder campaign for now.

The following 3 motions were made by Emily B. and seconded by Gerry N., which passed by unanimous vote. .
Note: The monies raised will be deposited into the Youth Mission Fund and then distributed into the El Salvador and West Virginia trip accounts accordingly.

Motion – Allow sale of apple crisp for \$10.00 on 11/20 in fellowship hall

Motion – Allow group to advertise haircuts for \$20.00 at a new hair salon in Deep River from 12p-5p on February 5th, 2012.

Motion – Allow pre-sale of Salvadorian coffee at a coffee hour, date to be determined. The groups must report to Church Council if this will be an issue with customs. Council foresees issues if funds need to be returned for undeliverable coffee after the trip to El Salvador has commenced.

Emily reported that the Trustees agreed to a 50/50 split (General Fund and Youth Mission Fund) of the proceeds from the Rummage Sale at the flea Market held in August. She also would like a deadline of December 1st for Group Sponsorship requests to be turned in. Lastly, Emily noted that she and Allyson held Youth Communion on Sunday.

Nominating – Fran said that they still have several openings and will submit what they have at the Annual Budget Meeting.

Stewardship— Dale W. and Deb V.W. spoke on behalf of the group. They first thanked Claudia Hardy and Kris Lindner for the assistance last week; Kris for having a volunteer get stewardship letters out and Claudia for working with Deb in getting up-to-date pledge information. The following are numbers as of 11/6/2011 for church members: 39 pledges for a total of \$56,763. There were 10 increases, 8 decreases, 17 stayed the same,

and 4 new pledges. Friend's totals were \$2052 with 4 pledges. Two new pledges and 2 stayed with same. Stewardship will be hosting Fellowship Hour on 11/20 with a possible encore performance by Grace Carver and the Stewies during services.

Trustees –Jack C. said the budget is in place and will be presented on Sunday, November 13th at the Annual Budget Meeting. He noted that Don Grohs placed gravel at the two entrances to the field; they will be looking at several tree issues; and they had a good meeting with Stewardship and will continue to invite Stewardship to update them throughout the year.

Tim mentioned that with Hurricane Irene and Winter Storm Alfred, the church should be looking at the possibility of becoming an emergency gathering center. He'd like to keep this issue open and an ongoing discussion as renovations and repairs happen in the church.

➤ *Kitchen Improvement Committee* – Sybil H. said they will be meeting on Sunday. Dorothy D. asked that the Trustees check the ovens as they are not lighting.

Women's Fellowship—Deb reported that they had a great first meeting viewing "Soul Surfer". There were between 12-15 women. The group will again be meeting the 1st Friday in February (if Adult Fellowship is not meeting) and will make Valentines for Veterans. They will also be discussing their first long-awaited Women's Retreat in April/May.

Annual Fundraising Events— No reps or reports.

Pastoral Relations—Heidi L. had no report.

➤ *Seminary Student Support Committee*: Heidi reported that they have met informally with Allyson G; no formal meeting has been scheduled yet.

Personnel—No rep or report.

Outdoor Ministry —No rep or report.

Old Business —None.

NEW BIZ —Dale W. reminded Council that the Men's breakfast is this Saturday, 11/5 at 8:30am in Fellowship Hall.

MOTION: Dale W. made a motion that Regular Church Council Meetings which are held the 1st Monday of the month be held from 7pm-9pm. Val N. seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.
NOTE FROM CLERK – The new starting time of 7pm will begin with the December 5th Regular Church Meeting. Please note that the All Boards Meeting held in place of the Regular Church Meeting in January will also start at 7pm. The All Boards Meetings is scheduled for Monday, January 9th, 2012. There is no time limit for that meeting. Deb will contact Kris L. and Messenger staff for appropriate notification to congregation.

Rev. Haut gave the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Deborah van Wyngaarden

Deborah Van Wyngaarden
Church Council Clerk