

ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING
November 14, 2010

Bob Butkus, Moderator, called the Annual Budget Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Deep River to order at 11:35 a.m. in the church sanctuary. There were approximately 40 members present. Rev. Haut opened the meeting with a prayer.

Evelyn Grohs was named substitute clerk. She read the call which was accepted as read.

Fran Phinney moved to accept the report of the Nominating Committee, seconded by Fred Phinney. Fran noted that Audrey Taber should be included on the Historical Committee. She noted there were several openings yet to be filled and some question marks by names unable to be contacted for renewal. The report was accepted, unanimously as printed with indicated change and notations.

Don Grohs made a motion to approve the 2011 budget of \$319,253.00, which was seconded by Jack Coulter. Jack had a presentation on the screen using a new projector purchased from Grohs Fund which showed major accomplishments of 2010 projects: new fence at parsonage, painting of the parsonage ceilings and barn, and cleaning of moss on roof; storage closets in kitchen at church by Richard Higgins; new railing at Church St. & sanctuary entrance. It was noted that budget constraints have placed lower fellowship hall bathroom remodeling on hold.

An excel sheet prepared by Dayle Larson, Treasurer, was part of Jack's presentation which showed pledges for the last few years with a decline since 2006 and 74 units that had pledged in 2010 but had in 2009. Jack stated that half way into the 2010 year that financial problems became imminent due to a \$46,000 shortfall. There was discussion on how to remedy this and how to get more to pledge rather than be included in "prayed for" as well as how to get members to serve on the Stewardship Committee so there is a complete committee.

Jack stated the budget had only a \$2295 increase of which \$1769 is health insurance. It was voted unanimously to accept the budget as presented. The Trustees were thanked.

Don Grohs brought up that 10 acres owned by the church within the State Forest and left to the church by Rev. Walter Euston now costs our church \$769.68 in town taxes, though for many years no taxes were levied. He further said that he had been in contact with the Deep River Land Trust and they were willing to accept this land if turned over to them. Don stated the will of Rev. Walter Euston has no stipulations on the sale of the property and that Cindy Euston, a granddaughter of Walt Euston, had no objections. A motion was made by Phyllis Haut, seconded by Kris Linder, to donate the property to the Deep River Land Trust. The decision was approved unanimously.

Tim Haut gave the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Evelyn Grohs
Evelyn Grohs, Substitute Clerk