



North Haven Congregational Church

# Church Council Minutes

Meeting of June 17, 2008

**Attending:** Beth Anderson (Trustees), Martin Benassi (Music), Priscilla Bradford (Clerk), Christopher Corcoran (Outreach), Linda Kirk (Deacons), Barbara Marks (Christian Education), Tim Peiffer (Congregational Rep), Betsey Reid (Finance), John Tibor (Treasurer), Tom Woodruff (Building and Grounds),

Tim Peiffer called the meeting to order at 7:40 and led us in prayer.

Minutes of the April 15th meeting were approved as corrected. May 20th Council minutes were corrected to remove the information about the Picnic Table Build from the Antelope Project and attach the minutes from the April 17th meeting of the Antelope committee to the Council minutes. Approved as corrected.

## Task review (from May 20 meeting)

1. Building and Grounds to develop costs for the needed projects they have identified and discuss funding of them with the Board of Finance. *Carry forward.*
2. Board of Finance to review capital repairs, maintenance and upgrade projects and determine appropriate costs to coordinate with those identified by Building and Grounds. Adam Schweickert and Martin Benassi to meet. *Carry forward.*
3. Identify NHOAH representative. *Check with Nominating.*

**Treasurer's Report:** John noted that insurance payments are paid through October 1. We may realize some cost savings on insurance. Utilities will probably be over by the end of the year. Suggestion was made to change the line name of Antenna Cell Tower Expenses to Cell Tower Disbursements. Report accepted.

**Building and Grounds:** Roof project: Tom reported that the south side roof was replaced 8-9 years ago. Beth repeated the need to check on the integrity of the roof for the Antelope Project to be able to install solar panels. Martin pointed out that the ridge on the sanctuary needs to be replaced and should be done at this time. Motion: Martin moved to go ahead with the roofing repair accepting the proposal made by Thor Roofing. If there is a price increase (due to cost of shingles and additional work requested) to the original bid, the committee should seek approval by Betsey Reid and Beth Anderson. Linda seconded. Motion passed. This project will be paid for by loan from the Trustees' unrestricted funds and endowment growth. This loan will be repaid with monies from future capital campaign. Original bid is \$18,000.

**Deacons:** Linda reported that they are looking at the membership list and are seeing the need for an additional category of membership. They are considering seeking a By-Law revision at 2008 Annual Meeting to add an Associate Level. A coffee house featuring Bizzy Bender is scheduled for October 25. Concern was expressed over the length of time we have been without an Associate Pastor and the effect on the youth program.

**Finance:** Betsey reported that they are looking for money from Nextel to help offset costs of lightning grounding after the lightning strike. Approved use of replacement reserve funds for Martin's proposal to review building integrity. This is also part of the Antelope Project. Suggestion was made that we have a leadership session in September to bring everyone up to date and to talk about capital campaign. Working on new contract for the copier. Budget requests due to the Finance Board by September 9.

**Music:** Martin reported that the following Pierpont Concerts have been scheduled: October 18, Mountain Road, May 9 Stacey Phillips, February 28, Miklos,

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28 Church Street, North Haven, CT 06473

www.NorthHavenUCC.org ❖ (203) 239-5691 ❖ (203) 234-1751 (fax)

Dec ?-TBA. The Board is looking for pre-concert players, reception sponsors, and business sponsors. March 8 is the New Haven East Consociation Choir Festival. Laura will be on vacation July 20, July 27 and Aug 3. David Chapman was honored on Heritage Sunday for his years of service to the choir. A plaque will be placed in his honor.

**Outreach:** Chris stated that volunteers for DESK are in place through the summer. We are on hold for clothes for Columbus House per their request. Our turn at the Habitat Sleeping Giant Build will come again in July.

**Trustees:** Rich Rappa resigned. Beth will talk to nominating about the need to replace him. Received \$3,638 from the estate of Grace Bodo. Discussed funding of roof project. (See Building and Grounds report). Trustees will pay \$100 per month toward the electric bill from the Cooper Fund interest as part of the Antelope Project.

**Web-Site:** Beth reported for Phil that a search engine support by Goggle has been added to the site. There

is also a new button to go to the page for summer events.

**Antelope Project:** Fixtures and bulbs inside and out have been changed to be more efficient. A walk-thru has been completed with Tom Phillips of Efficient Lighting and Maintenance. Lower wattage bulbs may be put in the narthex. Then we will sign off on the project and the loan will kick in. Lights in the sanctuary and chapel were not changed because they are on dimmers and the outside lights are on timers.

**Associate Pastor Search:** Tim reported that the committee is asking two candidates to come to second interviews. Four new profiles have been received and two may be followed up on. The biggest challenge has been to realize that the job description had to be re-written to be in line with our financial abilities. In all probability we will not have a candidate by September.

Those present recommend no meeting in July. Next Council meeting would be August 19 at 7:30.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00.

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Respectfully submitted,  
Priscilla Bradford, Church Clerk