



North Haven Congregational Church

# Church Council Minutes

Meeting of August 26, 2008

**Attending:** Martin Benassi (Music), Priscilla Bradford (Clerk), Chris Corcoran (Outreach), Philip DiPeri (Website), Linda Kirk (Deacons), Barbara Marks (Christian Education), Scott Morrow (Senior Pastor), Betsey Reid (Finance), Stephen Simonson (Acting Moderator), John Tibor (Treasurer).

Steve Simonson called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm. and led us in prayer. **Please note there was not a quorum.**

Minutes of the June 17th meeting were accepted.

## Task Review:

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 basic support is two-thirds paid. The short fall in the Building and Grounds line will be covered by monies from the Cooper Fund. Deacons are over budget at this time because of a deposit made for the Confirmation retreat to Silver Lake which will be reimbursed by participants in the retreat. Music has monies in NB accounts and special collections to cover costs. John has no concerns at this time.

**The question was asked about the proceeds from events that raise funds above the budget line items.** Where does the money go? Does it go into the general fund-fund raisers-or does it go to support a particular committee? Discussion followed in which

it was pointed out that except for the events that the Women's Fellowship holds to support their budget and the money the youth raise for the mission trip (they contribute 10% of their earnings to offset cost of use of the building), it was felt that profits from other events (eg. Pierpont Concerts) went to the Fund Raisers' line of the general budget. Request was made that Nancie look at the Council minutes for the last three years for the answer to the above question.

**Senior Pastor's Report:** Scott reported that Nancie will be out of the office September 4 & 5. Baptisms are scheduled for August 31 and September 21. There is a possibility of 14 confirmands. Guest preachers are being scheduled for the fall. Conference minister, the Rev. Dr. Michael Penn-Strah will preach on Nov. 23. Scott will be away Sept. 29 & 30 at Silver Lake and Oct 13-16 for his final sabbatical retreat.

**Leadership Retreat:** Betsey Reid and Scott suggested a leadership retreat. Scott will ask Ned Edwards, Farmington UCC, to lead the retreat on 'Governance in an age of Mission'. This idea has helped churches go from a structure of committees to one of missioning based on one's interests. It is hope that this would help when it is time to get volunteers and financial support. The retreat was scheduled for September 30, 6:00-9:00. Committee: Betsey Reid, Scott Morrow, ask Jim Bennett, Barbara Marks will consider and the committee will recruit others.

**Christian Education:** Barbara stated that new curriculum has been purchased for the Church School except for the pre-school which had some. Post cards are going out announcing Rally Day, September 14. Barbara is calling church families and those who had babies baptized and are now of the age for Church School. She expressed concern that several teachers have been teaching for 3-4 years and are ready to move on. There is a current need for pre-k and first grade adult teacher and a consistent adult teacher in the Nursery room.

North Haven Congregational Church

28 Church Street, North Haven, CT 06473

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

**Safe-Church:** Steve pointed out that the forms concerning safe church policy for each volunteer need to be up-dated. The forms can be used for more than one year but need to be signed each year with a notation that there are no changes.

**Christian Outreach:** Chris expressed concern with our outreach to DESK. The guest count has grown from 80 to 180. This creates a logistical problem for Bob as to what to cook because of limited stove space, time and budget to buy the food. Suggestions were made to ask the Masons and St. John's about stove use and to look into buying warming ovens. It was also suggested that Big Y, BJ's and Stop and Shop be approached for donations. Sleeping Giant Build, Habitat, is close to dedicating the house on Hallock Street. The Board is looking into hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive.

**Deacons:** Linda reported that the board members have looked at the membership list. Letters will go out to youth who have reached adult age, out of state members and inactive members (those who do not pledge and do not attend church). Phone calls have been made to members and pastoral concerns passed on to Scott. New pew Bibles are being purchased. A coffee house with Bizzi Bender is scheduled for the evening of October 25. Steve pointed out that it is important that the Deacon and moderator coordinate who should check the answering machine when the Pastor is away.

**Finance:** Betsey requested that 2009 budget requests be in her hands by September 8. The form is on the web site. They are looking into software to be used to consolidate the membership lists. Progress reports are being compiled from the groups who got the special projects grants. Martin Benassi has the contract to sign for the study of the structure of the church. The prospects of a capital campaign should be discussed.

**Trustees:** Beth sent in her report. **Motion:** Sue Compton was nominated to serve on the Board of Trustees until February 2009 to fill an unexpired term. **Passed.** The third quarter payment of \$6,250. to the operating budget has been forwarded to the treasurer. All the CD's with restricted funds have

been rolled over with rates of about 4.5%. The \$600. payment to cover the UI loan for the lighting improvements will be forwarded shortly.

**Music:** Martin reminded everyone that the first Pierpont Concert, Mountain Road, is October 18. He will be looking for help with the reception after the concert. He has contracts to sign and will have Betsey Reid (Business Agent) sign them, too. Sept 27, Candlelight Coffeehouse (Everett Barber and Sue-Beth Collins), Start dates: 9/4-Senior Choir, 9/11 Children's Choir and Chimes, 9/14 Cherub Choir

**Nominating: Motion:** Steve placed in nomination Phyllis Kaercher to serve as a Deacon starting in October 2008. Betsey seconded. **Passed.**

**Website:** Philip reminded committee chairs that the site is available for sign up sheets and ads for events. He is exploring putting the newsletter on the site.

**Antelope Project:** Phase 1 is complete. It should save 50% on lighting over 3 years. Phase 2-solar energy-may need help from capital campaign to fund. Phase 3 & 4-heating-waiting for results of the study of the building.

**Youth:** Junior High starts Sept 11, Senior High starts Sept 17. A kayak trip is planned for the end of September.

**Associate Pastor Search:** The committee is continuing to receive profiles and hold interviews.

**Tasks:**

1. Get additional votes on the nominations of Sue Compton to the Trustees and Phyllis Kaercher to the Deacons.
2. Get additional members for the Leadership Retreat committee and organize the retreat.
3. All Committee Chair have 2009 Budget requests to Betsey Reid by September 8.
4. Scott will contact Tom Woodruff as to the status of the new roof and the status of the roof over the music room.
5. Approve June Council Minutes at next meeting.
6. Nancie to research where funds go from fund raising events.