



North Haven Congregational Church

Church Council Minutes

Meeting of September 16, 2008

ATTENDING

Jim Bennett (Moderator), Philip DiPeri (Website), Beth Anderson (Trustees), Betty Vento (Deacons), Tim Peiffer (Congregational Representative), John Tibor (Treasurer), Betsey Reid (Finance), Scott Morrow (Senior Pastor), Martin Benassi (Music), Ellie Harple (Women's Fellowship)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm in the Koinonia Room by Moderator, Jim Bennett who led us in prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Previous meeting minutes (August 26, 2008)

Because there was no quorum at last month's Council meeting, motions made could not be voted on and required additional action at this month's meeting, including:

- Phyllis Kaercher to serve as a Deacon starting in October 2008. B.Anderson moved; E.Harple seconded. Passed
- Sue Compton to serve on the Board of Trustees. E.Harple moved; B.Vento seconded. Passed

Minutes of the August 26, 2008 Meeting were accepted as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT

J.Tibor presented this month's report with the following notations:

- Building and Grounds expenses will exceed the balance remaining. However, there are funds available in the Cooper Fund which will help to offset a deficit. There are five additional lawn care payments to be made at \$400 each.
- Deacons are over budget due to an \$800 reservation fee made for the confirmands' 2009 retreat at Silver Lake.
- Music is over budget, but there is \$945 in non-budgeted income which will help to offset the

deficit. This money includes the \$500 from the Trustees.

- Outreach will be over budget once the second payment of \$375 is made to ICM. There has also been an increase in the number of meals served at the Soup Kitchen with added cost.

Motion to accept the treasurer's report made by B.Vento and seconded by B.Anderson. Passed.

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

Scott reported that he took part in a WWII veteran's celebration this afternoon.

Confirmation classes start next week with potential of 14 confirmands participating.

Scott provided a guest preacher schedule who will serve during Scott's sabbatical.

Scott will be in contact with someone from Spring Glen Church regarding this year's mission trip location. It was noted that hurricane Ike passed through the town where Scott grew up.

Upcoming retreat scheduled for Sept. 30. S.Morrow, B.Reid and B.Marks have met to work on the program. Women's Fellowship will provide food. A preliminary program format is to break into small groups with individual leaders. Topics of discussion would include getting ready for the upcoming year and overall shared vision. B.Anderson recommended we contact chairpersons of other committees not present regarding the retreat. Also recommended officers and staff attend.

Annual Connecticut Conference is scheduled for Oct. 18.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building and Grounds (no one representing):

Additional proposals have been received for the roofing.

Christian Education (T.Peiffer for B.Marks)

Rally Day was a great success.

Sr. High still looking for an "adult" to help with this group.

Jr. High had their first meeting last Thursday with seven students participating. M.Benassi was co-leader.

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Adult Ed Rally is scheduled for this Sunday to brainstorm on ideas adults would like to see in programming.

Board of Deacons (B.Vento)

A Member was removed from Church Membership Rolls at his request.

There is talk about forming a church sponsored softball team as a fellowship activity.

Our current Membership Directory is over five years old and needs to be updated or a new directory created.

Recommended someone review the protocol with respect to how church programs and events are scheduled.

Currently, if dates are open on the church calendar, the event is booked. However, there are other issues which play into how and when an event should be scheduled such as what is taking place the week prior to and after.

Deacon's have postponed their fund raiser originally scheduled for October.

B.Vento noted that, on average, she drives approximately fifty miles per month doing home-bond visits for the church. The Deacons felt she should be compensated for the cost of gas.

Board of Finance (B.Reid)

Currently reviewing the budget request forms sent in by the various committees and boards.

Finance Board requests the Music Board make a formal proposal to modify the Special Project granted for Contemporary Music at Finance's next meeting as it is asking for a policy change.

The Stewardship drive is scheduled for Oct. 19 through Nov. 16.

Board of Trustees (B.Anderson)

No change from last month's report. There will be a meeting with the Wachovia representative to review our portfolio.

Music Committee (M.Benassi)

The first of the Pierpont Concerts is scheduled for Oct. 18 with Mountain Road, followed by Daniel Hartington on Dec. 13, Miklos Quartet on Feb. 28 and Stacy Phillips & Paul Howard on May 9.

Signs are being made to put on the town kiosk and church lawn. Other advertising includes churches, newspapers, and radio.

Sponsors for this season concerts include Arnold's Jewelers, North Haven Funeral Home, Tastebuds Deli,

and Minotti Music. Sponsorship money helps pay for the printing cost of the program flyer.

Candlelight Coffeehouse with Susan Beth Collins and Everett Barber is scheduled for Sept. 27 at 7 pm.

Website (P.DiPeri)

The Church By-Laws are now on our website and can be accessed by anyone.

Blank budget forms can be downloaded off of the website.

Antelope Project (P.DiPeri)

Nothing new to report since last month's Council meeting on the Antelope Project.

Money is the main item holding things up. Consideration of adding insulation to the attic is on hold until the architectural building evaluation study is completed. There is a danger that the Commonwealth's incentive program for solar installations may be radically reduced in the near future.

Women's Fellowship (E.Harple)

Women's Fellowship will provide retreat participants a light dinner.

The Harvest Fall Fair is scheduled for Nov. 15.

Need to inform Buildings and Grounds that the garage door needs repair and consideration of making the upstairs lavatory near sanctuary accessible.

E.Harple noted that in the past some of the groups using the church have left the lights on, doors unlocked and the freezer door open. Recommend sending a reminder to the various groups who have keys or use the facilities.

Associate Pastor Search Committee (T.Peiffer)

The committee decided to pass on the last two candidates. However, four new candidates have come forward and appear promising.

Tim noted that this has been a long journey and we should keep in mind the hard work of the volunteers who have served the church on this project.

NEW BUSINESS

The church office now has a new copy machine (also a fax and scanner).

ADJOURNMENT

With business concluded, a motion was made to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2008 at 7:30 pm.