



North Haven Congregational Church

Church Council Minutes

Meeting of November 18, 2008

ATTENDING

Beth Anderson (Trustees), Martin Benassi (Music), Jim Bennett (Moderator), Priscilla Bradford (Clerk), Chris Corcoran (Outreach), Philip DiPeri (Communications and Antelope), Phil James (Building and Grounds), Barbara Marks (Staff-Christian Education), Scott Morrow (Senior Pastor), Eleanor Norback (Deacons), Tim Peiffer, Greg Pierce (Congregational Reps), Betsey Reid (Finance), John Tibor (Treasurer).

CALL TO ORDER

Jim Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm and led us in prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were accepted with the following corrections:
Treasurer's Report: Delete not in the final sentence.
Finance: She will bring a motion to the next meeting.
Delete the motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The report does not include November 16. Pledges and Gifts income is projected to be \$16,000 short of the budget. Salary expense line is projected to have \$14,000 left plus \$1,100 in staff benefits for a total of \$15,000. Overages in Buildings and Grounds, Music, and Outreach will be covered by non-budgeted monies available to these groups. Report accepted.

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

Scott reported that there are seven confirmands. The Rev. Dr. Michael Penn-Strah, our regional conference minister, will be preaching on November 23. Council members are asked to have lunch with him after the service. The Thanksgiving Ecumenical service will be here on November 25. Linda Kirk and Bob Nerkowski attended a meeting with the Interfaith Cooperative Ministries concerning the lack of funds for the homeless shelters. Eighty-one families will receive boxes of food from the North Haven Food Closet. There is a possibility of caroling on the Green with St. John's.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building and Grounds

Phil James noted that the roof contract has been put on hold until April. The chimneys have been cleaned, the front sidewalk repaired, raised toilet installed in the small upstairs rest room, parsonage toilet fixed and the garage door will be looked at. The committee received Martin Benassi's report titled 'Building Evaluation Study'. The rear gutter will be repaired.

Christian Education

Barbara reported that she and Laura are hosting a youth group extravaganza on Thursday, November 20. Advent night is December 7 and the pageant will be December 14.

Christian Outreach

Chris praised Bob Nerkowski's ability to stay within the DESK budget while serving many more meals. The Sleeping Giant Build houses will be dedicated on November 22. Alternative gifts will be sold during December. The committee is working on a special project's proposal.

Deacons

Eleanor Norback noted that responses to letters sent concerning revising the membership list will be coordinated in January.

Finance

Betsey Reid received the Finance Board's copy of Martin Benassi's report. The committee is looking for three members to coordinate the capital campaign for Silver Lake. The board will still accept proposals for special projects. The project approved is from the Deacons. They plan to get a digital picture frame to showcase pictures of members. The following motion concerning the policy on fund raising was made by Betsey Reid and seconded by Tim Peiffer: All fund raising by boards, committees or individuals of the church will be for the benefit of the unrestricted income of the church, except under the following conditions:

- the entity has submitted their plan to Council and received approval, and

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- the purpose of the funds raised is an activity that is not or cannot be funded by the annual budget, and
- the project is not suitable for Special Project support through the Nextel funds.

Any fund raising so authorized for an exception will however provide 10% of monies raised to the unrestricted income of the church. Motion Passed.

Congregational Reps

Tim said that several people mentioned to him that the video recording during the last baptism was distracting. He asked what the policy is concerning photography during such events.

Music

Martin reminded us that a Pierpont Concert, Daniel Hartington, is scheduled for December 13. The Mountain Road concert realized \$282.50. There will be a harpist for Christmas Eve.

Nominating

The chair of each board needs to identify two people for each slot to be filled and send names to the office before the December meeting.

Web Site

Pictures are available on the website.

Antelope

Phase 1 is complete. We are realizing a savings of 451 kW/month.

Women's Fellowship

Eleanor stated that the Fair was a success.

Associate Pastor Search

The committee is in serious conversation with a candidate.

NEW BUSINESS

Motions:

1. To change the name of the Web Site Working Group to the Communications Group and expand the original role of the Web Site Working Group to provide general assistance to staff and internal church groups in their effort to efficiently, effectively and creatively communicate the ministry of North Haven Congregational Church to its members and friends, and to the larger community. Motion made by E. Harple. Seconded by E. Norback. Passed
2. Resolved that the Recording Secretary shall prepare at the end of each Calendar Quarter (April 1, July 1, October 1, January 1) a Status Report for each Pledging Unit that has pledged during the current calendar year. Motion made by E. Harple. Seconded by M. Benassi. Passed
3. Recommendation from Open and Affirming Planning Committee: That a committee be appointed to create an O&A statement and circulate the statement for discussion and response. Bring the statement to a vote of the congregation. Motion made by B. Reid. Seconded by M. Benassi. Vote 9 yes and 1 nay Passed.
4. Other Decisions:
 - Schedule the annual meeting on January 25.
 - Council will meet in January on January 13.
 - Loose offering from the Christmas Eve service will be used for the Adult Mission trip to Mississippi.

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting is December 16 at 7:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Priscilla Bradford, Clerk