



North Haven Congregational Church

Church Council Minutes

Meeting of January 13, 2009

ATTENDING

Beth Anderson (Trustees), Martin Benassi (Music), Jim Bennett (Moderator), Joan Bennett (Deacons), Ed Dudley (Outreach), Eleanor Harple (Women's Fellowship), Phil James (Buildings & Grounds), Barbara Marks (Christian Education), Scott Morrow (Senior Pastor), Tim Peiffer (Congregational Rep), Greg Pierce (Congregational Rep), Steve Peterson (Deacons), Betsey Reid (Finance), Adam Schweichert (Finance), Tom Woodruff (Buildings & Grounds).

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the December 16 meeting were accepted with one change to the Trustee report -- contingency funds should be changed to operating funds.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The report was provided and reviewed. John Tibor was not present. Report accepted.

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

The Martin Luther King Service will be held Monday, Jan. 19, at 7:00 pm at St. Therese Church. The confirmands are continuing visits to other Churches and will have a retreat to Silver Lake at the end of the month. There will be a breakfast to benefit the Youth Mission Trip this Sunday, Jan. 18 and there will be a presentation about Health Care Benefits at 11:00 am after the breakfast. The Four Chaplains will be celebrated on Feb 5 at 7:00 pm at the town recreation center. The Stop & Shop Food Drive has provided an additional check for the food pantry. St. John's continues to have dinners on Friday nights for \$1/person.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings & Grounds

Tom reported that the Board had reviewed Martin's report and some serious capital improvements are necessary. He

recommended that the report be distributed to the entire Council. He reported that the Board needs new members. The downstairs toilets will be repaired. The Church roof repair will begin in April/May.

Christian Education

Barbara noted that they are consolidating classrooms Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten and may move the Nursery upstairs, so parents will be closer to their young children. The Youth Group went skating Jan. 11.

Christian Outreach

Ed reported that the Red Cross is interested in having more Blood Drives at the Church. They would like us to consider every other month, alternating with St. John's. They are planning a pasta dinner to benefit the shelters in New Haven and are considering regular seating and pick up at the door. Tim Rose, a missionary from Paris will be here March 11 to speak to the confirmands. Sleeping Giant Habitat is beginning a new Build project and we have been invited to sponsor, beginning with a \$2,500 commitment. The Board has submitted a proposal for a grant to provide funds for scholarships for adult workshop trips.

Deacons

Steve reported that the review of the membership list will continue. So far, 7 members were removed per their request and 9 were moved to inactive. The deacons are continuing to review possible replacements for the pew bibles. They have a draft version of guidelines for baptisms.

Finance

Deferred to discussions of the 2009 Projected Budget.

Trustees

The final report for 2008 will show that the total endowment (restricted and unrestricted funds) has dropped to \$590,000 from just over \$750,000. This is primarily due to the drop in the value of the stock portion of the portfolio. The bond portion also has a technical drop in value, but the bonds are still paying interest and there is every reason to believe they will pay the full amount at their maturity dates 2 to 3 years from now. The

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restricted funds have also been reduced by the \$10,000 payment to cover a portion of the cost of the Church roof repairs scheduled for this Spring. The restricted funds are currently all in CDs, most for 24 months earning 4.5% APR.

Congregational Rep

No report.

Music

The pianos have been tuned. Unexpended funds collected for Christmas music will be used for Easter. Pierpont Concerts: Feb. 28 -- Mikos Quartet; May 9-- Stacey Phillips & Paul Howard. Contemporary Music services have been scheduled, one/month until June.

Nominating

Deferred to discussions in New Business.

Communications Group

Beth reported for Philip that he has been working with Nancie to produce the Annual Report and will publish the Annual Report on the Web Site as well.

Women's Fellowship

They have provided \$500 to the Adult Mission Trip; \$1,000 to the 2009 Budget; \$85 remaining to the 2009 Budget as well. They have also provided funds for the upstairs toilet work; Youth Mission Trip, Youth to Silver Lake and Confirmation Retreat; managed the gifts through the Social Workers and provided food to those in need. Coffee hour collections have covered the purchase of supplies. The group also managed the receptions for Thanksgiving and Christmas caroling.

Associate Pastor Search

The Rev. Care L. Goodstal-Spinks has been selected and will preach and meet the congregation on Feb. 8. The Congregational Meeting will convene after Church to vote on approval of the call, with a reception to follow. Meeting times will be set up on Saturday, Feb. 7 for the Church leadership to meet her. She is available to start March 19. Tim extended his thanks to the search committee with special thanks to Steve, Nancie and Betsey Reid as well.

OLD BUSINESS

- Moderator to appoint a Committee to create an O&A statement and circulate the statement for discussion and response prior to bringing it to a vote by the congregation. Carry forward.
- Appoint a Search Committee for a new Director of Music. Carry forward. It was noted that a motion should be passed at the Annual Meeting to approve the formation of the Search Committee, so the Moderator and Council can move forward and appoint the individuals to the Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

2009 Proposed Budget

- Overall Issues presented by Betsey, Adam and Steve
- Important to add the Associate Pastor
- Pledges -- fewer in number this year
- Pledges -- increases of existing pledges offset decreases of some
- Deficit of just under \$30,000 projected -- have received \$162,000 after 3 letters, and plan for \$170,000 in total.
- Second appeal planned
- Building Contribution has increased
- Associate Pastor package total the same as Lucia Jackson's, but compensation in salary instead of mostly benefits
- Assoc. Pastor's salary this year based on prorated amount beginning March 15, 2009.
- Board of Finance special project funds to cover moving

Motion: Accept the 2009 Proposed Budget was made by Tim and seconded by Steve. Approved.

Nominating Committee

Joan and Scott have been working on a draft slate of nominees for Boards and Committees. The position of Moderator is still open. The draft report was accepted.

ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: Feb. 17 at 7:30 pm

The meeting ended with a prayer by Scott and was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Anderson, substituting for Priscilla Bradford