



North Haven Congregational Church

# Church Council Minutes

Meeting of February 24, 2009

## ATTENDING

Beth Anderson (Trustees), Susan Compton (Acting Secretary), Chris Corcoran (Outreach), Philip DiPeri (Moderator), Rich Gallagher (Music), Phil James (Buildings and Grounds), Scott Morrow (Senior Pastor), Steve Peterson (Finance), Tim Peiffer (Congregational Representative), Steve Simonson (Deacons), John Tibor (Treasurer).

## CALL TO ORDER

Philip DiPeri called the meeting to order at 7:32 and Scott Morrow led us in prayer.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the January 13, 2009 meeting were accepted.

## SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

An Ash Wednesday supper and service are planned for Feb 25th. The church will be hosting a CTUCC Church Moderators Workshop on Feb. 28th. A Pierpont concert is also scheduled for Feb 28th. Kate and Arthur Latimer will be guest preachers on March 1st. The ordination of Dorothy Hutch is scheduled for April.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

John Tibor presented the Treasurer's Report and it was accepted. As it is early in the year there has not much activity.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Deacons

Steve Simonson reported new deacons were welcomed and retiring members were honored at the February meeting. The deacons are pleased to report that high school student Martina Benassi was voted to the Board of Deacons at the January 2009 Annual Meeting and this was an important accomplishment for the church in that it was a concrete response to

the general recommendation of Rev. Lucia Jackson, (our former Associate Minister) that we seek to include the youth of the church into the main body and fabric of our work and fellowship. Preparations for the Ash Wednesday soup dinner and service have been completed.

### Christian Outreach

Chris reported that \$1000 was raised at the pasta dinner to benefit the New Haven Homeless Overflow Shelters. Planning for the visit by Tim Rose on March 11th was finalized. One Great Hour of Sharing planning for March 22nd is underway. The second Sleeping Giant Build Habitat for Humanity groundbreaking in Hamden is scheduled for April. The church will be supplying volunteers to work on the home.

### Finance

Steve Peterson reported that as of February 10, \$170,000 in pledges and gifts for 2009 had been received and that letters announcing the follow-up campaign, known as the "Step-Up in Faith" campaign had been mailed.

### Music

Rich Gallagher reported that Miklos will be performing at the Pierpont concert on Sat. Feb 28th. A search committee for a new Minister of Music has been formed. They will present a job description for the position at the next council meeting. Separately, a survey is being created to determine what the congregation likes, dislikes and wants in a music program.

### Trustees

Beth Anderson reported that the Trustees met with John Lelas, the church's financial advisor, who recommended that the trustees move the current equity funds to a more diversified set of funds. The

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28 Church Street, North Haven, CT 06473

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

Trustees approved this change in funds. The bond funds have remained stable.

### **Buildings and Grounds**

Elevator Contract: Phil James reported that B&G has renegotiated the elevator contract cost for 2009 and is investigating less expensive contract options.

Nextel/Lightning Damage: A settlement offer was received from Nextel for the lightning damages. It is less than expected and a decision on whether to accept the offer has not been made yet.

Safety Inspection: The fire system light and extinguisher inspection was performed and the contract for this service is being examined to determine if less expensive options are can be found for 2010

Capital Planning: A list of priorities based on Martin Benassi's facility needs study is being made. Rev. Care's office will be painted.

Board Changes: Ann Schneider resigned and a member is being sought.

General Maintenance: A missing gutter resulted in water in the furnace room. The drain outside the door by the downstairs women's room needs to be cleaned out. The curbing on the back of the church was destroyed by snowplows and will be replaced by the town. The downstairs phone was replaced.

### **Response Team**

Steve Simonson reported that the team plans to meet next week. They will be meeting with Rev. Care to orient her to the church's Safe Church Policy.

### **Congregational Representative**

No report.

### **Communications Group**

Data Integrity: Nancie has requested that committees provide her with the names of their chairs and secretaries as soon as possible.

Website: Philip DiPeri reported that Martin Benassi's facility needs study is posted in the Library section of the website.

Material posted to our website News section is also automatically posted on the CT Conference site through our newsfeed technology. Committee chairs are encourage to use the newsfeed function to promote their own mission and agendas.

### **MODERATOR'S REPORT**

Response Team: Philip reported that he has re-appointed P.Benassi, D.Ferner, & S.Simonson to continue to fill the three positions on the Response Team.

Music Director Search Committee: A five member search committee has been appointed by Philip to recommend a Music Director candidate: K.Corcoran, D.Ferner, K.Grant, C.Mitchell, & M.Pallatto (youth member). A 'kick off' organizational meeting to be arranged for next week.

O&A Statement: Philip expects to charter within the next 30 days an *ad hoc* committee to write a proposed O&A Belief Statement for discussion and Member response prior to bringing it to a vote by the Congregation.

Capital Campaign: Philip proposed to charter a three member steering committee to plan a capital campaign. Discussion on this item is deferred until the March meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Informal Survey: Steve Simonson solicited opinions on behalf of the deacons about the visit and service led by the Turning Point group.

Coffee Hour: Beth stated that coffee hour volunteers are needed. Tim Peiffer volunteered to take on the responsibility of signing up coffee hour volunteers.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Next Meeting: March 17th at 7:30 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Compton, substituting for Priscilla Bradford