



North Haven Congregational Church

Church Council Minutes

Meeting of October 20, 2009

ATTENDING

Beth Anderson (Trustee), Martin Benassi (Music), Priscilla Bradford (Clerk), Chris Corcoran (Christian Outreach), Philip DiPeri (Moderator), Care Goodstal-Spinks (Associate Pastor), Phil James (Building and Grounds), Jeanne Mecca (Christian Education), Scott Morrow (Senior Pastor), Tim Peiffer (Congregational Rep), Betsey Reid (Finance), Stephen Simonson (Deacons), John Tibor (Treasurer).

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:43 pm by the moderator. Scott Morrow led us in prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the September 15th meeting were corrected as follows: Anne 'Lee' not 'Le'. The Finance report should read: "The 2010 pledges will need to be \$225,000." Minutes accepted as corrected on a motion by B. Anderson and seconded by J. Tibor.

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

Scott passed out a report and highlighted several points:

- Confirmation class has been cancelled for this year. This year's ninth graders will be invited to join with next year's class.
- Sound system has been installed. We are looking to purchase more hearing amplification units.
- Only two (2) O&A discussion sessions were held.
- Adult Education sessions on O&A had good attendance.
- New members' class is scheduled in November.
- Holiday food drive has started. The need is up.
- Connecticut Conference Annual Meeting is this weekend.

- December Window deadline is November 17.
- Dinner to benefit Kirk Johnson is Friday, November 6 at Hamden K of C.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT

Care noted that the nursery and toddler room has been re-located to the upstairs and asked if members of the Senior High can paint a mural on the wall. She was asked to show the design to members of Building and Grounds and Martin Benassi before proceeding. The Window article that highlights members has been well received. Twenty-two kids attended youth groups last Sunday. The pumpkins they carved will be for sale on Sunday. They will make snacks for the Blood Drive and host a parent's night out in December. They are looking for a family to sponsor for Christmas. The Christian Education budget has been prepared. There are thirteen (13) Church School teachers and a youth will be the Church School coordinator. Care is working with Anne Lee to coordinate music for the Christmas pageant. She has a volunteer to help with the pageant. Six youths will receive Bibles on Sunday. The first effort to bring the children in the Church School to communion went well. Adult education was well attended. The next adult education offering will be on November 8, 15, and 22. It will discuss what the synoptic gospels say and don't say about the Christmas story. Stephen Peterson will lead it.

TREASURER'S REPORT

John noted that the expenses are up to date but the report does not reflect last Sunday's receipts. He expects the collection of pledges to fall \$14,000 short from the budgeted amount. Several areas of the budget where a savings will be realized will probably allow us to break even. Report accepted on a motion by S. Simonson and seconded by M. Benassi.

North Haven Congregational Church

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MODERATOR'S REPORT

Philip said that he attended a workshop on growing the church and becoming a welcoming church. If you sign up for coffee hour, get someone to help you.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Meeting

B. Reid moved and M. Benassi seconded a motion to schedule the annual meeting for January 24, 2010. Passed.

P. James moved and B. Anderson seconded a motion to use a paper ballot at the annual meeting to vote on acceptance of the O&A statement. Passed.

Antenna Revenues

Ten percent of the annual antenna receipts go to the Christian Outreach budget to be used as they decide.

Fund-raising Idea

Sue-Beth Collins suggested that an area be put on the NHCC website where members can put items to be bought and sold. Members of the Council encouraged that this idea be researched more thoroughly in the areas of taxes and our non-profit status.

ICM Proposal

Discussion was held concerning the proposal received from ICM that suburban churches provided overnight shelter accommodations when Columbus House is full. M. Benassi moved and J. Tibor seconded a motion that NHCC participate in this program. Passed.

Authority to Use Pictures of Individuals

Beth Anderson and Philip DiPeri will research a release for use of pictures taken at church.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building and Grounds

Phil James reported that the lines in the parking lot have been painted. Curbing has been repaired and the front steps have been sealed. The lower half of the

sanctuary windows on the south side have been painted. They are reviewing the rental rules. Replacing the Heath room windows would cost \$1200. A roof leak will be repaired by the roofers.

Deacons

Stephen noted that the Deacons have signed up to cover two months of DESK. He encourages other boards to do the same.

Christian Education

Jeanne reminded us that Advent Night is December 6 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

Christian Outreach

Chris stated that Blood Drives are scheduled for November 30, January 26, and March 23.

Finance

Betsey expressed concern over the condition of the mailing list. It is not consistent and is hard to use to get correct information. For the stewardship drive, four letters were written to target four different groups. The second letter will contain a pledge card and the status of one's 2009 pledge. Four speakers will speak on Sundays on 'Speaking from Faith'.

Music Board

Martin encouraged us to attend the Pierpont Concert on October 24.

Trustees

Beth said that a bond held with CIT was sold for a loss on the advice of the financial advisor. The bond lost more value after we sold it.

Nominating

Scott passed around a list of board members and officers to be updated in preparation for the work of the Nominating Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting November 17 at 7:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Priscilla Bradford, Clerk