



North Haven Congregational Church

Church Council Minutes

Meeting of November 17, 2009

ATTENDING

Beth Anderson (Trustees), Martin Benassi (Music), Philip DiPeri (Moderator), Care Goodstall-Spinks (Associate Pastor), Phil James (Buildings & Grounds), Eleanor Harple (Women's Fellowship), Lori Murphy (Christian Education), Scott Morrow (Senior Pastor), Betsey Reid (Finance), Stephen Simonson (Deacons & Personnel), John Tibor (Treasurer).

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 pm by the moderator. Care Goodstall-Spinks led us in prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the October 20th meeting were corrected as follows: The moderator's report should read – If you sign up for coffee hour, try to include as less active member to assist. The finance board's report should read – The second stewardship letter will be in four groups and will contain a pledge card and the status of one's 2009 pledge. The minutes were accepted as corrected on a motion by M. Benassi and seconded by S. Simonson.

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

The Food Drive: 85 boxes will be filled and delivered on the Fri. & Sat. before Thanksgiving

Two of the three freezers broke down last week. A new one will be donated, and a second will be purchased from proceeds of the Food Drive.

The first Festival Day will be Nov. 22.

Adult Mission Trip: looking at it for next year.

Church to serve as Overflow Shelter – week of Feb.8th. We will co-host with St. John's Church. Dinner and supervision each day from 6 pm to 6:30 am. Need to create a coordinating group now.

Advent: Advent Pageant, 2 Christmas Eve services and Family Sunday after Christmas

Conference Annual Meeting – there was a discussion on the impact of reduced support. Staff will have 2 week furloughs, only 2 (1/2 time) regional ministers remaining, 2 full-time have left.

Annual Meeting Open & Affirming vote.

Stewardship: there will be 4 speakers talking about Giving.

The Assoc. Pastor will be away part of the Thanksgiving week and some of the week after Christmas.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT

The Youth are preparing for the first Festival Day.

The Christmas Pageant theme has been chosen.

Planning is underway for Advent Night craft-making and festivities.

The Sunday School groups will be using curriculum in Jan.

The Adult Education is exploring the Christmas Story in the Synoptic Gospels.

The Youth Mission Trip will go to New Orleans in July next year.

A Blue Christmas (loss and bereavement) service will be held Nov. 29.

The sale of decorated pumpkins earned \$142 profit.

TREASURER'S REPORT

John noted that he expected this year's operating expenses will be met. Receipts were less than hoped, but expenses will be less than expected as well. Next year, however, we will not have the \$15,000 carry over as we did this year. The report was accepted by a motion from S. Simonson and seconded by M. Benassi.

North Haven Congregational Church

28 Church Street, North Haven, CT 06473

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

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Phil distributed information from the UCC suggesting the need for parental permission to use photos of children, and adult permission to use their photos. Two versions of "model permissions" were distributed for discussion. A vote will be taken next Council Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Special Projects ideas:

- Philip will build and hang two boxes to hold copies of the Window for guests to the Church to pick up and read.
- Philip has suggested creating "tickets" to encourage people to invite others to visit the Church. These can be given to members to use to invite others to come.
- The Adult Education will have a series on being a welcoming Church.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Board

Betsey noted that there are two special project options: Philip DiPeri's option of the Visitor Development Project and Betsey Reid's idea of a Web-Cam to record church services and have them available on the Web Site (technical issues will need to be explored with this); and Scott's Welcoming Project. Pledges returned to date – 39. A follow up letter will go out at the end of the month.

Buildings & Grounds

The H/C Elevator signs have been created and installed thanks to Priscilla Bradford.

Parsonage tree trimming has been completed.

A section of the Church was not being heated properly. The problem was determined and fixed.

The Church will need to purchase a new re-built dumpster. The current one is coming apart.

The board will continue to try to find dispensers for hand sanitizer.

Mural for Toddlers room: Care will have a small version reviewed by Buildings & Grounds.

CPR Training: Chris Corcoran handling the details

Nancy will share a 3-month schedule with the Mason's to coordinate use of the Parking Lot.

Heath Room windows: the replacement windows should be reviewed ensure high quality and energy efficiency prior to purchase. The Women's Fellowship group might be willing to help with purchase once windows have been agreed on.

The Church needs more signage.

The Church needs lights in the front of the Church.

Personnel Committee

Steve Simonson reported the following:

Evaluations for Nancie and Stewart will be done in November.

Scott's evaluation will be done by Pastoral Relations in November.

Care's evaluation will be done by Pastoral Relations in January.

Anne's probationary evaluation will be done in December

Deacons

Steve reported the following:

Board of Deacons: 5 of 12 terms continue for next year, 1 person will sign up again, but the Board may need to have fewer than 12 members next year

Special Project:– Everybody Knows Your Name includes getting a flat screen TV, ad Digital Picture Frame, DVD. Will spend about \$1,000.

Directory: they are planning a hard copy and CD out in the Spring

Deacons are reaching out to those on the prayer list, with some very nice results

The Board spends about 15 minutes at the meeting in Bible study

At least 2 people will join the Church on Dec. 6, and 3-5 others may also join at that time

Christian Education

Festival Day planning: Jen & Pete Lucibelli are helping with this

American Red Cross speaker came to talk to the older Youth Group. The youth are interested in helping with the Blood Drive scheduled for Nov. 29 and have baked cookies

Other Sunday School classes baked for Coffee Hour, the proceeds will go to Habitat

Advent Night will be Dec. 6

Christmas Pageant is planned for Dec. 13

Parents Night out is being planned for December

Music Board

Pierpont Concert: Wesleyan Spirits, Dec. 5th. The last concert showed a profit of \$250. A harpist will be playing Christmas Eve, cost \$200. Organ tuning is scheduled for December. Pierpont Signs and programs paid for by the 4 ads and sponsorship

Music Board new members, Cynthia Campos might be interested, Carol Mitchell might also be, but there is a set number of choir members on the Board

Nominating Committee

Scott requested that all Boards and Committees get potential names for next year to Joan Bennett and Mabel Peterson. Phil requested that Youth members be considered as well.

Trustees

Beth reported that the Board will meet in December to discuss strategy for next year's budget contribution. Beth reported that the other members were willing to stay on and she was willing to stay on for one more year (filling the first year of a three year term).

Women's Fellowship

The Harvest Fair was quite a success, some additional proceeds expected

The Women's Fellowship group is prepared to help with the purchase of new windows in the Heath Room, when window type is determined

The Food Drive proceeds will be used to purchase a chest freezer to replace one of the two that failed last week.

A gift of a new upright freezer was received-the second one to fail last week.

Communication Group

Phil reported that people need to get material to him or to Nancie to be put on the Church Web Site. With the Thanksgiving holiday, the Window deadline is Nov. 17, mailing next Wednesday. December deadline is Dec. 15 with mailing on Dec. 23.

ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting - December 15 at 7:30 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Anderson, Substitute Recording Secretary