



North Haven Congregational Church

# Church Council Minutes

Meeting of December 15, 2009

## ATTENDING

Beth Anderson (Trustees), Martin Benassi (Music), Priscilla Bradford (Clerk), Philip DiPeri (Moderator), Care Goodstal-Spinks (Associate Pastor), Eleanor Harple (Women's Fellowship), Scott Morrow (Senior Pastor), Tim Peiffer (Congregational Rep.) Betsey Reid (Finance), Stephen Simonson (Deacons, Personnel), John Tibor (Treasurer).

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by the moderator. Eleanor Harple led us in prayer.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the November 17th meeting were corrected as follows: Attending: Stephen Simonson (Deacons & Personnel). Finance Board: Betsey noted that there are two projects options Philip DiPeri's Visitor Development Project and Betsey Reid's idea of a web-cam to record church services and have them available on the web site. Women's Fellowship: A gift of a new upright freezer was received-. The minutes were accepted as corrected on a motion by B. Anderson and seconded by S. Simonson.

## SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

Scott reported the following:

- Three people joined the church on December 6th.
- New Haven East Consociation pulpit exchange will be January 10th.
- During the Holiday Food Drive, 85 boxes will be distributed.
- NHCC with help from St John's will be part of the Abraham's Tent project to host men from the New Haven shelter the week of February 8-14.
- Prayers are requested for the families of Davida Foy Crabtree, Phil James and Foster Little.

## ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT

Care reported the following:

- There was a nice attendance at Advent Night.
- Pageant rehearsal is in progress.
- The church school will use a new curriculum on January 3. The CE Board and teachers are also looking at the Stepping Stones (core curriculum) requirements.
- February 7th will be the next festival day.
- Seven guests attended Parent's Night Out. The profits from that night and the pumpkin sale were used to buy Christmas gifts for a teenager.
- Youth Groups will go skiing on MLK weekend.
- The O&A statement was discussed with the Senior High Youth Group.
- Ten youth and three adults are registered for the summer mission trip.
- The adult education in January will be 'How to be Welcoming People'. It will be led by Adam Schweickert and Doris Ferner.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

John noted that the report is up to date with deposits and expenses. He expects that we will end the year with expenses paid and very little to carry into next year. Report accepted on a motion by B. Reid and seconded by E. Harple.

## MODERATOR'S REPORT

Philip passed out a Council Self-Evaluation which he requested be completed and returned at the January meeting. It is also available on the website (library).

## OLD BUSINESS

The question of when the model release needs to be signed was discussed. Agreement was reached that it was a good idea to have a release. B. Reid made the

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following motion and it was seconded by T. Peiffer: NHCC model release form should be the simple form presented with the addition of the following statement: If you wish to withdraw permission, please contact the North Haven Congregational Church office. Motion passed.

## NEW BUSINESS

### O&A Ballot at the annual meeting:

- The policy statement will be called the Open and Affirming Statement.
- Motion: The Open and Affirming policy statement and the public confession form of the O&A statement will be voted on at the annual meeting. Motion made by B. Reid and seconded by S. Simonson. Passed.
- Colored paper will be used for the paper ballot.
- Moderator will appoint two people to count the ballots.
- Special Projects: A motion was made by B. Reid and seconded by T. Peiffer to approve two special projects: the Visitor Development Project funded at \$1,860 and the Sunday service web-cast project. Passed.
- Coffee Hour: We are being challenged to think of new ideas to get more members involved in the serving.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Deacons**

Steve reported that the projects mentioned in November's minutes are continuing. The Deacons are reaching out to people on the prayer list with positive feedback.

### **Finance**

Betsey said that a follow up letter has been sent to the pledging units that have not sent in pledges. To date, 76 pledge units have responded for a total of \$126,643 which represents 58% of what is needed. The board members are discussing how to record pledge information to have more helpful statistics.

### **Music**

Martin reported that concert goers enjoyed the Wesleyan Spirits. The next Pierpont Concert is February 6. The board has discussed Anne Lee's evaluation, goals and how to prepare a budget.

### **Trustees**

Beth stated that the board will meet with financial advisor, John Lelas, to look for projected income for next year. They are trying to find out what budget items the Trustees money goes toward and looking for areas of the budget that interest money can support.

### **Congregational Representative**

Tim reported that all issues raised have been routed to the appropriate committee.

### **Communications Group**

Philip reminded us to look to the web-site to find out the activities for the day. Christian Education related items from the Window are on the CE page.

Reminder to all chairs of all boards: Annual Report is due in the church office on Wednesday, January 6. (E-mail preferred).

## ADJOURNMENT

Next Council meeting on January 12 (one week early) at 7:00 pm. Pizza served before the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Priscilla Bradford, Clerk