



## North Haven Congregational Church

# Church Council Minutes

Meeting of January 12, 2010

### ATTENDING

Beth Anderson (Trustees), Martin Benassi (Music), Priscilla Bradford (Clerk), Chris Corcoran (Outreach), Kim Coughlin (Christian Education), Philip DiPeri (Moderator), Care Goodstal-Spinks (Associate Pastor), Eleanor Harple (Women's Fellowship), Scott Morrow (Senior Pastor), Tim Peiffer (Congregational Rep), Mabel Peterson (Deacons, Nominating), Betsey Reid (Finance), John Tibor (Treasurer). Guests: Chet and Sue Blue, Cynthia Campos.

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 pm by the moderator. Care Goodstal-Spinks led us in prayer.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the December 15, 2009 were corrected as follows: New Business: The policy statement will be called... Motion: Both the Open and Affirming policy statement and the public confession will be presented for a vote at the annual meeting.

### SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

Scott reported the following:

He will preach on Open and Affirming on January 17th and on the Christian Community on January 24th.

Chet Blue spoke to the vote on the Open and Affirming Statement that is on the agenda for the annual meeting. He requested that a statement of what an O & A church is by the UCC guidelines be made available at the meeting. He feels that everyone should have access to the discussions that have been held over the past six years. He feels people should know the implications of their vote.

New member joined on January 3rd.

Martin Luther King Remembrance Service will be held on January 15th at Mishkan Israel.

Concert to benefit Columbus House and Abraham's Tent will be on January 16th at the Unitarian Society of New Haven.

Series of interfaith panel discussions on January 17th and 24th.

Our church and St. John's will host 12 men from Columbus House as part of Abraham's Tent from February 8-14.

On February 17th, Ash Wednesday will be observed with a simple supper and worship beginning at 5:30 pm.

The Four Chaplains Remembrance Service will be held at the town recreation center on February 3rd. One of the last survivors of the ship will be present.

### ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT:

Care reported the following:

The members of the youth groups enjoyed their Epiphany Party, working on the food pantry and skating at the Blue's.

Mission trip to New Orleans has 10 youths and 3 adults. A pancake supper on Tuesday, February 16th will be the first fund raiser. They are asking for baskets to raffle from the church boards.

Members of the church school received a letter from Habitat thanking them for money they contributed. They will continue this outreach program.

A rabbi will be a guest teacher for church school students.

Working on adult education.

Youth advisors have met to plan for next year.

## North Haven Congregational Church

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**TREASURER'S REPORT**

John noted that this is the end of the year report that will appear in the annual report. There is a balance forward of \$8,201.25 because of pledges received at the end of December. Music and Outreach line items are exact to budget because even though they spent more than their budgeted amount, the extra came from non-budgeted sources. Report accepted with gratitude on a motion by B. Anderson and seconded by M. Benassi. Motion made by E. Harple and seconded by B. Reid to move the non-budgeted Miscellaneous account-Alexander Gift of \$200-to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Passed.

**MODERATOR'S REPORT**

Philip highlighted the logistics for voting on the O&A statement at the Annual Meeting on January 24th. Deacons will distribute the paper ballots and ask the members to raise their hand to be identified. The ballots will have a box to check for abstaining, be printed on colored paper and be printed on a half sheet. Two counters have been asked-Patience Benassi and Eleanor Norback. A parliamentarian who is not a member of NHCC will be present. Philip reminded the present chairs of boards that it is their responsibility to see to a smooth transition to the next board and chair.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Betsey Reid of the Finance Board presented the proposed budget for 2010. Items to note: Fund raisers line is increased. Staff salaries are raised 2%. There are 117 pledging units in 2010 as compared to 155 units in 2009. The budget is not balanced and has a deficit of \$22,288.75. B. Reid made the motion that we take this proposed budget to the congregation and continue to work on raising money. Seconded by B. Anderson. Passed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS****Building and Grounds**

Scott reported that the heating zone valve is not working causing uneven heat in the office and nursery and choir rooms.

Deacons: Mabel celebrated the new agenda item of Bible Study for 15 minutes at the Deacon's meeting. Deacons have been calling people on the prayer list with satisfying results.

**Christian Education**

Kim stated that the church school teachers are using a new curriculum and planning for Festival Day on February 7th. Busy bags are being assembled for use by children during family Sundays. The board is looking at core competencies and the use of the chapel.

**Christian Outreach**

Chris reminded us of the Blood Drive on January 26th and a work day for Habitat on February 13th. There was a good response to the alternative gifts offered at Christmas. They are hoping to continue to sell fair trade coffee and tea. They are working on the plans for Abraham's Tent.

**Music**

Martin reminded us of the Pierpont Concert on February 6th. He is working on a booklet on how to schedule the Pierpont concerts.

**Women's Fellowship**

Eleanor reported that the fellowship is using the money they have raised for scholarships.

**Nominating**

Mabel reported that there are still two Deacons needed. Council will receive the slate by e-mail.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Next Council meeting on February 23 (fourth Tuesday due to school vacation) at 7:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

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Respectfully submitted,  
Priscilla Bradford, Clerk