



North Haven Congregational Church

# Board of Finance Minutes

Meeting of September 9, 2008

## ATTENDING

Philip DiPeri, Scott Morrow, Steve Peterson, Betsey Reid, Adam Schweickert, John Tibor

## CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm and opened with a prayer led by Scott Morrow.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the 8 July meeting were approved upon motion by Philip DiPeri, second Steve Peterson.

## REPORTS

### Minister's Report

Scott will reconcile expenses incurred during his sabbatical leave with the Pastoral Relations Committee at the end of the month.

The New Haven East Consociation will contribute \$500 toward the total expenses.

The Deacons are in the final stages of cleaning up the membership list and will complete this task before the beginning of the stewardship campaign.

Laura's computer has arrived and is ready for configuration. NB The computer is the property of the church, not her personal property.

### Recording Secretary's Report

There was no report from the Recording Secretary.

### Treasurer's Report

There is concern about the Building rental income. The Kaplan payment has been received, but had not been recorded at the time the report was prepared.

There is evidence that pledge income is not on track with the fiscal year.

The Deacons' line shows an \$800 deposit as an expense even though it will be fully reimbursed; however some of the reimbursement may be in FY 2009.

Philip moved to accept the report as submitted. Steve seconded. The motion carried.

### Council Report

Council discussed the budget implications of fund raising events. The issue is whether or not fund raising income should be considered unrestricted general income. Board members generally think that income raised by groups represented in the church budget should be considered unrestricted income, whereas income raised by groups not represented in the church budget, e.g. the youth mission trip, should be treated as restricted income.

D.E.S.K. is now serving ca. 180 persons and NHUCC does not have sufficient cooking capacity to prepare food for that number of persons.

## CURRENT BUSINESS

### Antelope Project

Phase I, Reduce Lighting Costs, is complete. Phases III and IV have been incorporated within the contract with M.Benassi. Phase II, installation of photovoltaic panels, is awaiting funding availability, possibly from a capital campaign. Major Concern: Delays may jeopardize the level and availability of rebates available from the State of Connecticut; rebates have already been cut by \$0.25/watt since we've started this process.

### Nextel Situation

Negotiations with Nextel to resolve the costs associated with damages caused by lightning and inadequate grounding of the Nextel cell phone antenna continues with P. James as the NHCC contact person.

### Photocopier Lease

The new photocopier has been delivered and is operational. The lease negotiated by A.Schweickert resulted in at least a 40 percent reduction in costs

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with the additional benefit that NHCC will own the equipment at the end of the three-year lease.

### **Special Projects**

Discussed the informal changes requested to a Special Project originally sponsored by the Music Board related to Contemporary Music and approved for completing during 2008. Betsey will invite a representative of the Music Board to formally present a case for the desired changes.

### **Leadership (Retreat) Meeting**

To be held on 9/30 at 18:00. Discussed overall objectives, several agenda items, and expected outcomes. One expectation is to raise issues associated with NHCC capital needs and help develop interest in a capital campaign that will also raise monies for Silver Lake and Biloxi programs. Looking for a catchy name for this event to help attract attention and increase participation.

### **Stewardship Campaign**

The campaign will begin on 10/19; Stewardship Sunday was set to 11/16. B.Reid was inspired by a UCC Lenten flyer to suggest designing a campaign theme based on the Wizard of Oz metaphors of the Yellow Brick Road, the Scarecrow's brain, the Tin Man's heart, and the Lion's courage.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Budget**

Unfortunately budget requests from boards/committees have not all been received. As a result, we'll need to actively collaborate via email and phone to sufficiently prepare for the October Finance meeting

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

## **NEXT MEETING**

October Meeting TBA

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Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Peterson, Secretary  
with help from Philip DiPeri