

Church Council Meeting Minutes **Tuesday, October 20, 2009**

Present: Phil Guymont, Deb Durland, Kathy Pappas, Reverend Will, Karen McArthur, Dick Purdy, Jane Rioux, Margaret Forbush, Jim Forbush, Jenny Lynch, David Fentress, Linda Gouveia, Rich Rende, Cecelia Roberts

Meeting opened with a prayer by Margaret Forbush. Jane Rioux will give the opening prayer for the November meeting. Others will be asked to volunteer for future months.

The greater portion of this meeting was dedicated to discussing and approving the preliminary 2010 budget and designing the quarterly meeting presentation for Sunday, October 24th. After a brief review by Karen McArthur on changes made to the budget from the previous meeting, a motion was made and seconded to accept the preliminary budget as presented. The Council unanimously voted to accept the budget as presented. The format for the Quarterly meeting will be somewhat different. We will hold the meeting in the sanctuary immediately following the service. We will not offer coffee at this time to expedite the meeting process. All present will be invited to coffee immediately following the meeting. All chairs of Ministries will come forward and introduce themselves and talk briefly (3 minutes) about the purpose of their respective ministries and add any other relevant information, summing it up within that 3 minute time period. Karen has been asked to present the budget. Although the specific details of the budget will be available, they will not be handed out. A summary sheet will be distributed to begin discussion. The Council agreed to have the budget distributed electronically by email to give everyone a chance to review it and be prepared with their questions. This should help the meeting to stay focused on the topic at hand and theoretically ask relevant questions. It will also help us to save paper and stay greener! Each ministry chair will be available to answer questions posed to their group. Reverend Will will work with Linda to determine the best method whether through the blog or separate email.

Ministry Reports

Treasurer's Report

There was no Treasurer's report at this meeting.

Worship Ministry

Linda spoke briefly again about the Joys and Concern card concept. We had a brief discussion about how this could be done. Those additional ideas will be brought back to the Worship Ministry for further discussion before a final decision is made.

Outreach Ministry

From our Minutes -- Oct. 13, 2009

We shared "thank you" letters that had been received from Nativity Prep, Project Bread and the YMCA. Margaret recapped our recent brainstorming session and reported that

much of the left-over goods from the church rummage sale went to Gifts to Give, thanks to Anne Sedgwick's efforts. Updates were given on status of various Outreach activities underway. These included: Turkey sales to begin October 18; Holiday Hope begins on November 8; planning for annual Coat Drive. It was noted that the money raised from turkey sales is used as a donation to Market Ministries; Sister Rose then distributes gift certificates to the needy. We are also planning to do a church-wide spring service project -- date and location TBD. A blood drive is tentatively scheduled for May 23 to coincide with Children's Sunday, which worked well last year.

Margaret Forbush gave an overview of the process for researching, reviewing and making decisions about organizations nominated for Outreach funding. Research assignments were made, and it was agreed that all evaluations would be sent to Outreach members who would read them before the next meeting and be prepared to discuss. We are reviewing approximately 20 organizations (includes many funded last year) and will make funding decisions at our November and December meetings.

Caregiving Ministry

Council Meeting

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Lay Shepherd Team

The Lay Shepherd Team continues to make monthly visits to church family. The team has also been making weekly visits to Al DeMello as he recuperates at home. Perhaps we will also be calling on those outside the team to help in this much appreciated reaching out to Al and his family.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Rev. Will blessed eleven shawls at the Sunday service on October 18. By request of church family and the Prayer Shawl Ministry, six shawls were passed out to those in need of comfort and for joy.

The ministry looks forward to dedicating more shawls in the spring.

Membership Team

The Membership Team met on October 13 with Rev. Will. College freshmen have received emails this fall as school starts, and they will receive a Christmas greeting also.

The team is working with Daphne Siegal and Rev. Will to plan a "Fellowship Reunion" on December 20. There will be another meeting to work out the details.

Jane Rioux

Human Resource Ministry

Ministry Meeting Notes October 13:

Dave Fentress and Kathy Pappas met with Paul Durland to discuss procedural issues regarding contracts. It was decided to resume contracts following the pledge drive.

Fellowship Ministry

Debbie Durland reported on the Fellowship Ministry. The Dine Around is becoming more popular and is scheduled for Saturday, November 7th. The event for December will be a Cookie Exchange to happen at the coffee hour of Christmas Sunday. The group is

considering revisiting the Chowder Supper for Ash Wednesday which could benefit the Mission Trip fund raising project.

Buildings and Grounds Ministry

There was little to report on this Ministry. Dick is willing to add more members to his ministry.

Finance Ministry

The committee continues its search for a new investment advisor. They are meeting with another firm in the upcoming week.

Ministry of Spiritual Formation

There was no report given since Rich was not at the meeting.

Children's Circle Nursery

Jenny presented an update on the nursery school's progress at this point. There is a waiting list for particular offerings within the school. She identified a few repair items to Dick to be addressed (step on the swing set, etc). Otherwise things are going well.

Fair Trade Coffee

Linda and Cecelia presented information on the UCC Coffee Project in hopes of our congregation accepting this issue representing part of who we are as a church. The goal would be to purchase fair trade coffee and ask that the coffee hour host/hostess will make a donation to help support the fund. There was some sentiment on either side of the idea of having a donation jar at coffee hour to help fund the project. Due to the late time of the evening, the item was tabled and will be discussed further at a future meeting. Meeting ended at 9:30 closing with a prayer by Reverend Will.

Respectfully submitted,
Cecelia Roberts
Clerk