

Church Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Present: Linda Gouveia, Karen McArthur, Jane Rioux, Paul Durland, Kathy Pappas, Rev. Will, Jim Forbush, Phil Guymont, David Fentress, Cecelia Roberts
Susan McClaren gave a brief report from Outreach
Cecelia shared an opening prayer to begin our meeting at 7:05 pm.

New Business

1. A Pastoral Advisory Committee is in the formation phase to work with Reverend Will. Paul and David are working to create this role. There are individuals who have been asked to participate in this role. Some have accepted and decisions from others are in process.
2. The church choir will be singing up front in the church more often now. This gives them and the entire congregation a feeling of being a part of the worship service.
3. Discussion of membership payment – see Finance Ministry report below.
4. Christmas Eve offering – Outreach Ministry will discuss where this will go. Historically, it has gone to Market Ministries. **A motion was made and seconded to take up the Christmas Eve offering and allow Outreach to make the final decision where it will be sent. Motion passed.**
5. Treasurer's Report – Phil reports that we need \$22k in December in collections to make the 2009 pledge goal.

Ministry Minutes

Ministry of Spiritual Formation

No update for December

Caregiving Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry, for the second month in a row, has gained another member.

The Lay Shepherds visit our church family faithfully every month.

The Membership Team will be sending out Christmas greetings via email to our college students.

After church on a Sunday in January, the Membership Team would like to host a coffee in the library for adult members who joined the church between 2007 and the present and for those considering joining the church in the near future. It would be an opportunity to connect, to pass out the new membership packets, and to share ways that members are engaged in the church.

Jane Rioux

Outreach Ministry

Updates:

The annual **Turkey Sale** enabled us to give \$1,030 in Stop and Shop Gift cards to Market Ministries for family food assistance.

Holiday Hope was successfully completed, with the adoption of 15 families and 30 individuals.

The Coat Drive will run through the month of January.

Several Outreach members attended a Science Fair at Nativity Prep, where our church sponsors a scholarship for a student. We met him, and shared his delight when he was awarded first prize for his exhibit.

Funding:

We finished the process of allocating donations from the church's Outreach Pledge Income as follows:

Medical Missions for Children - \$1,000

The Central Asian Institute - \$1,000

Hands Across the Sea - \$500

FINCA (Micro loans) - \$500

Our Church's Wider Mission - \$3,500

As well, we donated additional funds to:

The Boys and Girls Club - \$500

The Salvation Army - \$500

The Hunger Commission - \$350

In total, we donated \$24,000 in November and December.

New Business:

We are relaunching the **food collection** effort. Our donations will now go to the Dartmouth Council on Aging. We are trying a new approach, "food of the month". We hope that creating a new, simple focus each month will keep the message fresher, and heighten people's awareness of our ongoing efforts.

The **January Worship Support** calendar was filled in, with Outreach members taking up most of the slots. We left a few open for several choir members who suggested they would like to participate. Jeannie Gulbranson recruited from their ranks to complete the schedule.

Potential **Service Project** dates were identified: April 10th and May 15th. Actual site is still TBD.

Communications Ministry

The video production for the Children's Circle Nursery School is nearing the start. The readers have been lined up. More information on its production will be available in January.

Staff Relations Ministry

Kathy Pappas reports that she will begin meeting with Scarlett L. from the nursery school on a new teacher contract.

Worship Ministry

Worship Ministry Meeting Notes-- December 7, 2009

Present: Larry, Tena, Linda, Peter, Cyndi, Rose, Rev. Will

Absent: Jeanne, Bill

Linda led us in a devotional.

The services on Christmas Sunday, December 20 will be at 8AM and 10AM with the coffee hour held in between the two services. In past years these services have been held at 9AM and 11AM, but because these times have already been publicized (due to an oversight), the times will remain at 8 and 10 for this year.

We went over the "deacon" responsibilities for the two Christmas Eve services. Cyndi and Rose will check in with Wendy to see if there is anything she needs for the 5PM service. The primary responsibility will be helping to seat people. **Tena will ask the Robertson family if they would like to do the readings for the 11PM service and will try to find greeters (perhaps the Robertsons can do both?)** Tena and Linda will need two more people to help with lighting the candles in the balconies at the 11PM service.

Sanctuary responsibilities assignments were completed for January. We decided to start the New Year with communion (by intinction), which will be Sunday, January 3.

We will take down the Advent decorations on Saturday, January 9 at 9AM. Many hands make light work -- please try to be there to lend a hand.

We discussed the possibility of meeting on Tuesday nights when some of the other ministries meet. We agreed that Monday nights were best because we need Rev. Will to be present. We felt that we could stay informed about what the other ministries are doing through conversations at coffee hour with other ministry members, through reading the notes from the council meetings, and at quarterly meetings when the ministries give a synopsis of their activities.

We discussed having students serving as acolytes. Their primary responsibilities would be lighting the candles and ringing the bell in the choir loft prior to the beginning of the service. **Rev. Will will speak to Wendy about this.**

We will start using the Prayer Request Cards in January and will talk about putting this into action at our January meeting.

Rev. Will will be away from the pulpit on January 31 (he'll be joining the youth group on the ski weekend) and we will need to find a guest preacher. This will also be on the agenda for January's meeting.

We continued our discussion of *The Heart of Christianity*, chapters three and four. We will be reading chapter five for our next meeting. It was felt that we needed to allow more time for this discussion.

Our next meeting will be Monday, January 4, 2010 at 7PM in the library. **We volunteered Bill Shattuck to lead us in a devotional.**

Our meeting ended at 9:15PM with Rev. Will leading us in a closing prayer and the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda R. Gouveia

Fellowship Ministry

The Fellowship Ministry did not meet in the month of December. On Debbie's behalf, Paul asked that each Ministry look to sign up for a coffee hour in the upcoming year.

Buildings and Grounds Ministry

This ministry did not meet as a committee this month. Issues that arose in the church have been addressed.

Finance Ministry

Karen reported that 111 pledges have been received for a total of 164 adults. In a week, another letter will go out reminding people of their pledge responsibility. After that, a third letter will follow. A discussion ensued with Phil Guymont addressing the issue of dues to the Old Colony Association based on church membership. He feels that our membership numbers are inaccurate (487 members) number of pledges/pledge units that exist in our church. He is uncomfortable paying on a "number" that does not reflect the true membership of the church. Karen stated that the bill from Old colony is based on the number of church members as of December 31st of every year. At this time, that is what our roles say. She suggests that a revision of the by-laws to address membership criteria be instituted to address this issue. There also need to be more education to the congregation about membership responsibility. Karen also stated that the Church Clerk (who by stated by-law is responsible for the membership roles) and the moderator-elect work together to review and address the issues within the membership roles. Currently, the Caregiving Ministry is beginning to address this issue. Karen states that we need to create a "Special Nurture" list according to the by-laws which would set in motion, the

process to properly “categorize” each member’s status. Based on the current by-law, we need one year to make this happen. More discussion on this issue need to happen and will be added to the agenda for January, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,
Cecelia Roberts
Church Clerk