

**Church Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, February 16, 2010**

**Present:** Deb Durland, Paul Durland, Kathy Pappas, David Ferreira, Rev. Will, Pam Paynton, Dick Purdy, Jane Rioux, Jenny Lynch, David Fentress, Anne Sedgewick, Linda Gouveia, Karen McArthur, Cecelia Roberts

Paul Durland gave our opening devotional for the group.

\*Minutes of January's meeting were approved unanimously by the Council.

**Agenda Items**

**Communication survey results**

Dave Ferreira represented the Communications Ministry team tonight. He presented the results of the survey that was done last month regarding satisfaction of the different modes of communication within our church. Many interesting ideas were presented. The Communications Ministry will continue to review and discuss changes, deletions and possible new techniques to make sharing information the best possible in our church to try and meet everyone's needs.

**Membership Lists**

Reverend Will reported on the updating of the church membership list. He suggested leaving it on our agenda to keep it "in our face" and to revisit it in a few months. The purpose is to address all members to declare their current membership status in the church.

**Formation of a Music Committee**

Linda Gouveia and Reverend Will met with the choir last month. Based on feedback to them, Linda and Will shared the information with them. There are some within the church who want more variety in the types and tempo of music that is played. The Council had a length discussion on music issues involving the composition of the soon to be formed Music Ministry, the style of music and the mission and/or purpose of this group. It was agreed that the Worship Ministry would take the next step to form a Music Ministry team to include representation from 2 members of the Senior Choir, 1 from Worship Ministry, 1 member of Youth Choir, 1 from the congregation in general and the teen youth and 1 representing the youngest members of the church. A motion was made and seconded to approve Linda Gouveia, Warren Hathaway, Will, Pam Paynton and Steve Starrett to move forward in the Music Ministry formation. Motion was unanimously approved.

**Monthly Ministry Meetings**

Looking back at previous discussions on this topic, there continues to be a feeling of disconnect of ministries now that there is no larger group meeting as had been on the Tuesday evenings prior to individual meetings. Paul Durland asks Ministry chairs to go back and ask their respective groups how they would feel about going back to the Tuesday night "pep rally" format. Each ministry will report back in March.

**Wearing Name Tags**

It is felt that we should all make a renewed effort to wear our name tags when we come to church on Sundays. There are many new members who we need to welcome and

should get to know us. We discussed if additional information should be added to the tag. There were a variety of opinions.

### **New Business**

\*\*Discussed briefly the new prayer card location and felt that there needs to be more thought to where they are and the logistics of collection within the service.

\*\*The Mission Trip information is now up and running on the church web site thanks to Leann Gunn. Check it out!!

### **Ministry Minutes**

#### **Ministry of Spiritual Formation**

No report this month.

#### **Care giving Ministry**

Executive Council

Care giving Ministry

February 2010

The Membership Team met Sunday morning, February 7, 2010, to firm up the plans for the Fellowship Coffee on New Member Sunday, February 28. Members from 2007-2009 received written invitations and will wear name tags. During the worship service, several newer members will speak about what being a member means to them. The service and coffee serve as an opportunity for members to learn more about each other.

The Membership Team would like to place the three-sided brochure about the church ministries in the church pew sign-up book for visitors to see what our church offers.

Since the Care giving Ministry is hosting the coffee on Feb. 28, it seemed a good opportunity to share with the congregation the work of the ministry in a poster. Perhaps each ministry could do the same when they host a coffee. It is a way to communicate what each ministry does. The posters could then be hung in the Lower Social Hall.

The next meeting of the Membership Team is Sunday morning at 9:00 on March 7, 2010.

The Lay Shepherds are asking for volunteers who would like to give rides to parishioners during the week or on Sunday morning to church. It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know our members. We are also asking the congregation for male lay shepherds who would be interested in visiting men in our church family.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will be having a blessing of shawls on April 25. Some of the women are interested in knitting baby sweaters for the Haiti project or for the Mission Trip in June. It is a great opportunity for anyone in the church to participate in this project.

## **Outreach Ministry**

There was no meeting of the Outreach Board this month. Just a reminder that March is pasta sauce month for food donations.

## **Communications Ministry**

Dave Ferreira shared the survey results noted above.

### **Communications Ministry Congregational Church of South Dartmouth Meeting Minutes—February 2, 2010**

Attendees: Brian Mickelson, David Ferreira, Jim Forbush

1. Brian led off with a progress report on the Children's Circle Nursery School Video project. Brian has recorded four voices reading the approved script. The Committee listened to the four and agreed that three could proceed to the next step, in which visuals and music are added. Brian is in need of some signed releases and some artwork in order to proceed with a shooting schedule. Brian did submit his list of screen shots to be paired with the different script sections. Brian's current estimate is that the video would be completed sometime in March.

2. David distributed his draft PR release for a newspaper Souperbowl article. The release was approved with minor edits. One late change to be incorporated is that the food will be distributed to the Salvation Army (not to the Council on Aging). Both David and Margaret Forbush will plan to take digital photos to pair with the article.

3. David was also alerted about upcoming PR opportunities. April 10, the church will be doing its church wide outreach service project with the Boys and Girls Club of New Bedford. In June there should be an opportunity for a photo and a description of the soon to be departing Youth Mission Trip.

4. Jim discussed the five page analysis of the January Communications Questionnaire. There was much good news in that the Congregation seems to feel that the quality and the content of the communications are universally high. It was interesting to note that most of the respondents get their information from more than one source, but preferences take many patterns. The implication is that each form of communication is valued and efforts must continue to be made to make all of them work well.

Some additional action steps:

Increase the Spire mailing list so that those that would get more value from a hard copy will get a hard copy.

Find a way to add more information about church people and ministry accomplishments to our written communications.

Fine tune our written communications:

Spire content (refine scripture passages, more about people and accomplishments)

Blog color, length—is there a lighter background color that would work

Bulletin—add something about church people (profile of coffee servers?)

See analysis for more fine tuning opportunities

5. Jim will be gone for the Feb. Church Council Meeting. David volunteered to sit in. David will present the results of the questionnaire and hand out copies of the analysis.

6. Jim asked Brian and David whether either would be willing to chair the Communications Ministry for the next year. Both politely declined.

### **Staff Relations Ministry**

Staff contracts are current; the one exception is Will's and it is next on the agenda. Also, more ministry members are needed to begin work on the staff handbook.

### **Fellowship Ministry**

The chowder supper is back on for Ash Wednesday. The second Dine Around is underway for sign ups. Fellowship is researching the idea of a PAWSOX night for the congregation this summer. More details to follow.

### **Buildings and Grounds Ministry**

The clock needs to be readjusted but will wait for Daylight Savings Time to do so. The group is looking to repaint the side entrance hall during the April school vacation. They are also looking to acquire/create a shed for maintenance supplies. Few repairs identified around the church: column on handicap ramp, pruning trees, fix the window on the nursery school shed, clean up cellar, Bill Jones has asked for better lighting over the piano

### **Children's Circle Ministry**

No report this month.

### **Spiritual Formation**

No report this month.

### **Finance Ministry**

1 or 2 more pledges have made their way in to church for a total of \$224K. 99% of 2009 pledges have been paid. The investment team has 5 or 6 members but hasn't met since November. A new financial advisor was chosen so they will wait to meet with them soon.

### **Treasurer's Report**

No report this month.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Cecelia Roberts  
Church Clerk**