

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES September 18, 2012

In Attendance: Susan Powers, Janice Moore, Bob Sorozan, Terri Sorozan, Jeff Paulette, Jeanette Baker, Christa Tennant, Carolyn Koboski, Jill Wilson, Chris Wilson, Joyce Rioux, John Rioux, Carla Heister, Tim Krauss. Excused: Mattie Verzino, Jackie Palance, Heidi Flower, Bill Thibodeau.

*“Kindness can become its own motive. We are made kind by being kind.”
Eric Hoffer*

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by chair Susan Powers. Jeanette Baker offered this month's devotion.

August minutes were accepted as presented, with the following change – last name Campbell is changed to McConnell.

Faith in Action – Jeanette Baker – the field trip to the farm is scheduled for Sept. 29th. The annual Crop Walk is in October. Mum Festival booth for Sat. 22nd only – handed out sign – up sheet for people to cover times. Middle Ages group has asked for a ‘wish list’ – this should come from Finance – John Rioux will contact the group and explain the procedure.

Video- Taping of Sermons – Jeanette has done this; she will bring it to show Council how it came out. Audio is already set up to use – we need to invest in an inexpensive video camera and a tripod. Need someone to set-up and take down each week. Tabled to Worship Committee.

Trustees – Chris Wilson - work is being done on the parsonage lawns and trees; some still need to be trimmed back. Bristol Brass and Wind Ensemble has set their schedule for the year. We have asked for a \$25 increase in their donation for church use.

PASCOM company has evaluated the sanctuary communications system, to see if we could switch from analog to digital. We would need a mixer and other equipment, as well as an annual contract of \$2000 for upkeep; at an approx. cost of \$20,000. It was decided to stay with the current system. Trustees has issued a letter of intent (not a binding contract) regarding Solar Panels for the roof. This means we will do business with the company that the letter was issued to, if we go forth with this. There has to be a study done to see if it is feasible. Also, there are tax credits available that the church cannot use, as a non-profit organization. These credits can be purchased by other companies.

Dave and Tammy Kelly presented a proposition from ACN Co. This has to do with electricity/power where the church becomes an MLM and can profit from selling.

Freedom Fellowship has moved its services to Sunday morning, in the dining room. They represent approx. \$5000 in revenue to the church. They are extremely flexible and know that there will be some Sundays that they will not be able to use the dining room. So far, parking does not seem to be an issue. This is a good outreach for us – many churches engage in ‘space-sharing’ with other congregations.

Joyce Rioux – the application process has begun for the Yale Intern program; this has been passed to Pastor Bob for information needed from him.

Stephens Ministry – Diane Ashworth will attend the week-long training workshop and will lead the program here at Prospect. We hope to be able to have her attend the January training in Orlando, Florida.

Charge Conference – set for Thurs. Nov. 29th at 7 p.m. Ken Kieffer will plan to attend. As of this date, Rev. Kieffer is cancer – free. We all received a copy of “Due Dates” for various church reports. We should also have a budget ready, if possible.

Vital Congregations program – some if this is already in place here; pastors will go for training in “incubator” groups that focus on goals, meeting targets, etc.

Heidi Flower has volunteered to get the Cradle Roll program up and running again. Sue Powers will help her get set up in Power Church. Heidi is also starting a “Kids Praise God” music program for children 1st grade and up – this will be every Thursday beginning in October, from 5:15 – 6 p.m.

Adult handbells will rehearse on Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Jill Wilson has compiled the responses from the church survey, and everyone received copies of the results.

Finance – Tim Krauss – Income and Expense statements were handed out. An oil bill came in as well, as the company came out and “topped off” the tank. We are over-budget for the year. We can ask the Oil company not to come out again unless we call them first. Don and Jane Workman are doing well on the audit so far. We have received the annual donation from Roberts Foundation of \$10,000. They also included the extra \$1500 this year – we requested this last year for the Nursery Program. The Roberts Fund chair has printed guidelines for how the money can be used. This is for children or families with children in need, in the church and local community. Sue Powers will ask the chairs – Mattie Verzino and Beth Provost – to create a request form for asking for money from this fund. Also, the guidelines and a report of how the money has been dispersed will be brought to the October Council meeting.

Pastor Bob – there is a wedding rehearsal this Friday at 5 pm; wedding is Saturday at 10:30 a.m.

District Resource days will be Feb. 2 and Feb. 10th. One of these will be in West Hartford. District Conference is set for April 28th. Prattsville UMC in NY was hit hard by flooding during the hurricane ;they do not have flood insurance and need to restart from scratch. Church and parsonage were gutted and need to be rebuilt. Our district is asking each church to purchase at least one chair for their sanctuary at a cost of \$75 per chair. If we raise more than that, the money will be used toward parsonage repairs. We will ask for a special offering this coming Sunday. Jill Wilson has photos from her mission trip there and they will be shown on the big screen in the sanctuary, as well.

Coming Worship Events – A Blessing of the Animals in October. Date to be announced. Election Eve – Monday, Nov. 5th Service of Holy Communion. Thanksgiving Eve ecumenical service will be held here at Prospect this year.

Thursday evening, 7 pm George Englehart will do a presentation on budget issues.

From now thru December, the theme will be “How do we discover the will of God for our church?”

The first Laity Convocation will be presented by our new bishop on Oct. 20th in NY.

Council agreed to allow Terri Sorozan to have a table at the church fair to sell products from SERVE – an organization that helps 3rd world villagers create and sell their wares to earn money for themselves and their villages. 90 % goes back to the village, the church keeps 10% . These items can be ordered on consignment and will also be available to the congregation for a couple of Sundays after the fair.

Pastor Bob closed with prayer.

Council was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Next meeting is set for Oct. 23rd. Tim Krauss will offer devotions.

Respectfully submitted

Janice Moore, recording secretary.