

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR JANUARY 24, 2011

IN ATTENDANCE: Susan Powers, council chair; Pastor Dennis Winkleblack, Bill Katt, Carol Rivard, Janice Moore, Heidi Flower, Luisa Gladu, Mattie Verzino, Joyce Rioux, Jeanette Baker, Bill Thibodeau, Tim Krauss, Stuart Brown.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Susan Powers, with a devotion from Colossians, and prayer.

The October minutes were accepted. The Church Conference minutes were accepted with the following corrections: Elaine Marois is Elaine Foley; it was not the entire budget that was passed, only the Pastor's salary and reimbursements. Change of spelling for Roger Sondstrom; 141 health kits were sent to Annual Conference, not 1411.

Re-Think – Jeanette Baker – Souper Bowl of Sharing will ask for monetary and canned food donations. The children will present Children's Time on Jan. 30th with a video-taped skit shown on the new screen in the sanctuary. It was suggested that the skit be posted on the church website, after receiving permission from the parents of those in the skit.

Reports for the Council should be sent to Sue Powers –they will reside on our website, under the heading of each committee, with the most recent at the top. Sue will forward them to Jeanette Baker for posting.

Carol Rivard – Cleaning Crew help is needed asap! CRC was working well but there were problems getting people to commit to it. BARC has looked over what needs to be done and has given us a quote of \$85/week for their services. It was decided to “push it” in the congregation, bulletins and website for the next 4 weeks, to see what response is received; and for the committee chairs to bring it up at their next meetings. Carol will report progress at February's council meeting. Another alternative is to have BARC do every other week. Short term solutions include getting people who need to do community service to help here.

Tim Krauss – Budget - \$19,000 ‘cushion’ from 2010 to 2011 – but must be aware of oil costs, (\$8000 per fill) and extra needed for snow removal. No questions were raised regarding income. Expenses are based on a full-time pastor, with Dennis' part-time status until the end of June. Worker's Comp. figures are down, due to less paid employees. There is an estimated cost of \$2000 for helping with the moving expenses for the incoming pastor, and an increase in phone/internet costs. An email “mass mailing” can be done for approx. \$30/month. Weekly mailings would include the bulletin, upcoming events, meetings etc.

Question on large increase in Christian Education budget – this is regarding the Nursery – today's demands are different - if we want young families here they have to see a Nursery program that will be acceptable – having the same face every week is a start, perhaps a modestly paid person from the congregation or from the Boy's and Girls club; with a structured program involved, not just “babysitting” – such as story-time. The

question was brought up as to whether the Roberts Fund could be tapped for this expense, as they did for the Summer Parking lot program. Sue Powers suggested that a representative from Roberts Fund, Education, and Staff-Parish meet and discuss this, and bring a plan to the February council meeting. Mattie Verzino, Beth Provost, and Joyce Rioux will meet together for this.

Question regarding property expenses/parsonage expenses – Fixtures and Equipment – these lines are in the budget (5675 – 058 and 5845-058) but are not always used. Should this come from the building fund? Answer – the Building Fund usually takes care of the larger expenses, while smaller things come from the general fund. The budget line for Parsonage lawn – lawn care was done by volunteers in 2010 – only expense was \$100 for leaf removal.

The budget was moved and seconded, and passed as is – with the understanding of where we are now, and that it can be ‘re-worked’ during the year to accommodate changes.

Nominations – vote for Naomi McConnell to be Financial Secretary; vote was unanimous. A thank you to Lang Ashworth for his tenure in this post.

Who is Missing? Who is New?

Darwin Bugbee is in the hospital – Carol Rivard will pay him a visit. Ms. Palaia’s parents have been regular attendees since the Christmas pageant.

Charles Gibbs, Rebecca and CJ – Charles’ work schedule has changed and he cannot attend as often.

Member Nurture - Jill Wilson reported that new members will be received every other month, with an orientation in between months. Jill took an online course from NYAC on welcoming - the first 10 minutes is crucial to a new visitor.

Ct. District Resourcing – Joyce Rioux and Tim Krauss attended a recent district training day – attended Missions and Staff/Parish relations – well-attended, good information, Joyce brought back a booklet on caring for the Pastor. People shared experiences from their churches - it is critical we share with the D.S. exactly what our needs are as a church – our weaknesses and strengths.

NOTE TO ALL COMMITTEES – committee-sponsored events must be posted on the wall calendar in the church office – this calendar is what the volunteers use to put information in the bulletin every week. Please include what room/area you will be using.

Fellowship Hour Assignments – for the time being, we will keep the assignments the way they are, but with the understanding that the committee assigned to a particular month is responsible for getting volunteers to do this, it does not need to be committee members. Janice Moore oversees this, and will make every effort to match committees with the months that are best for them.

Luisa Gladu brought a proposal to the council regarding the upcoming Renaissance Dinner. She expressed her appreciation for all the wonderful people at Prospect, and for all the ways our members step up and help. They have a good crew ready for the Dinner, and there are many people on a 'wait list' for this year. Luisa proposes that we have the dinner on two evenings, April 30th and May 7th – to accommodate everyone. Council approved this proposal. A cost study was done as well, and it was found that the meal could be catered for approx. the same amount as doing the food here, and would save all the running up and down stairs for the servers, as well as time needed beforehand.

The 2009 Renaissance Dinner was held on 2 evenings, and brought in approx. \$6000 - the group then approaches the Council to see where the money should be spent. Luisa has already mentioned the Organ Fund as the recipient for this year's dinner.

Also, the Victorian Tea was very well-received, and people have already expressed an interest in coming again next year – could we make it the same time each December, and make it an annual event? Question raised by Joyce Rioux – should there be a “Fund-Raising” group, to oversee the revenue for special events like these? Pastor Dennis suggests taking things like that to Finance first, to see where the most need is.

Council Devotions – a sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers to do the Opening Devotion for each meeting – as follows –

2/15 Carol Rivard	8/16 Tim Krauss
3.15 Janice Moore	9/20 Vivien Brackett
4/19 Stuart Brown	10/18 Jeanette Baker
5/17 Heidi Flower	11/15 John/Joyce Rioux
6/21 Bill Katt	

Heidi Flower re: Organ Fund Fund-Raisers – upcoming plans include a Tail-Gate Tag Sale and a Talent Show, both in June.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner is on March 8th, 2011.

Men's Club Dinner is scheduled for April 2nd.

Bristol Brass and Wind St. Pat's Concert is Tuesday, March 15th.

Technology Committee – from Tim K. for John Hickman – would be very good if volunteers could access PowerChurch remotely – the volunteers are willing to help offset the small cost to the church, to help pay for the “go To My PC” product needed.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m. Pastor Dennis closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Janice Moore, Recording Secretary.