

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES August 23, 2001

In Attendance: Susan Powers, Rev. Bob Sorozan, Heidi Flower, Bill Katt, Jackie Palance, Mattie Verzino, Tim Krauss, Jeanette Baker, Stuart Brown, Jill Wilson, Chris Welson, Carla HEister, Joyce Rioux, Carol Rivard, John Rioux, Gary Gladu, Diane Ashworth, Vivian Brackett, Janice Moore. **Excused:** Bill Thibodeau, Karen Rochelle.

Opening devotions were given by Tim Krauss. He read an excerpt from “Jesus, C.E.O.” concerning ‘compassion for the crowds’.

ReThink –Jeanette Baker reports that there is a sign-up sheet available for people to take an hour’s time at the Mum Festival booth for the church. There will be information to hand out, games for children to play, etc. There is also a Mission Concert coming up – Sept. 24th in the Sanctuary, Jason Castonguay will perform. Refreshments will be needed for this.

Education – Diane Ashworth reports that teachers are still needed for the up-coming school year. If there is enough participation, the Rally Day activities should be church-wide, not just for the Sunday School – help is needed for set-up, clean-up and food. Shirley Paulette will complete her term as Education Chair in December.

Staff/Parish – Joyce Rioux reports that there are 2 open positions in the church (Asst. Music Director and Child-Care Provider). Job postings are available. Joyce asks that we share this information with anyone we know who may be interested.

Middle Ages – Gary Gladu presented the idea of a new fellowship group for the church, focusing on those members of “middle age” (35 +) – originally suggested as a couples group, it will be expanded to singles as well. Focus will be on such activities as the Renaissance Dinner and Victorian Tea. Tim Krauss commented that this is a good focus on “age-level” ministries; Vivian Brackett says it sounds like a good way to get more of this age group attending activities, as well. Gary Gladu is acting chair of this group. The suggestion was made to change the name to “Active Adults” . Motion was made to accept this group, seconded and passed.

New Business – Heidi Flower brought a concern regarding the balcony in the sanctuary. We host the Bristol Brass and Wind Ensemble concerts, and other activities as well, in our sanctuary, and there is a problem with people using the balcony. The stairway near the choir loft is roped off, but people just step over it to go up. Also the front rows are roped off but are used anyway. This is a safety issue, as the front of the balcony is grandfathered, not up to code for height requirements. It was suggested that framed signs be posted at the balcony access points, and that, as part of the tenant rules there has to be ushers in the balcony for all activities, to keep people from sitting in the front rows.

The suggestion was also made that offering a dinner in Sessions Hall before a concert would be a good fund-raising activity for our church.

Pastor Sorozan – Pastor Bob gave us an overview regarding ‘single cell’ churches, the #70 rule (# of people that people are comfortable knowing), and the importance of creating opportunities for people to “plug in” to, to maintain and create church growth. We should be actively engaged in both in-house and community outreach events. A church buddy system was mentioned, as well.

Plans are being made for a “Planning for 2012” church retreat. Our favorite place, Mercy Center, is undergoing renovations so only the DayScope building is available right now. Jeanette will

look in to Wisdom House in Litchfield, and Janice will get information on St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield. Possible dates are October 8th or 22nd. (October 15th is the Country Cupboard Fair, and the first week in Nov. is the Pasta Dinner sponsored by the Women's Group. Information was given regarding the Stephen Ministries program that instructs lay persons in outreach to shut-ins, etc. There is a training day coming up on Oct. 29th in Berlin, Ct. There is a "Meet the Bishop" event planned for pastors, staff-parish, and lay leaders on Sept. 10th.

Our Charge Conference is scheduled for Sunday Nov. 20th, 2:30 p.m. presided over by DS Ken Keifer. Refreshments will be needed for this event.

New Member Orientation with a dinner is also in the works. Janice Moore will coordinate the dinner as soon as a date is set.

Pastor Bob has already done 3 baptisms, many more are scheduled. We used to have a Cradle Roll person who kept in touch with families of baptized infants, children. This should be made active again.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 20th at 7 p.m. Vivian Brackett will offer devotions. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Pastor Bob closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Janice Moore, recording secretary.