

Church Council Meeting February 20, 2012

In attendance: Pastor Robert Sorozan, Jill Wilson, Beth Provost, Sue Powers, Chris Wilson, Jeff Paulette, Jeanette Baker, Carla Heister, Heidi Flower, John Rioux, Joyce Rioux, John Hickman, Carolyn Koboski, Matti Verzino, Terry Parker, Bill Katt, Bill Thibodeau

Devotions presented by Carla Heister

November 2011 minutes approved with one correction: Pastor's vacation should be 4/17 to 4/24/2012
Charge Conference Jan 8, 2012 minutes approved with one correction: Page 3, Melissa Brown was added to Nurture team, not membership.

Reports (in addition to written submissions):

1. Women of Prospect: Bargain Ctr. Looking for volunteers. Popcorn machine purchased. Will be scheduling a craft night for home made greeting cards.
2. Nurture: List of groups made. They include: Handbell Choir, Senior Choir, Men's Fellowship, Middle Age group, Play Group, Seasonal Bible Studies, Book Club, Stephen Ministries, Building volunteers, Women of Prospect, Fellowship Hour, Craft Night group
3. Rethink/Outreach: Zion appreciated "Souper Bowl of Caring" items delivered. Will be working with Education on Heiffer Project. Roberts Fund distributing money to Covenant to Care, Salvation Army camperships, and Methodist Camperships. Camping publicity should be out in March.
4. Worship: Mon, Tue and Wed mornings during Lent, the Chapel will be open for personal devotional time with communion during Holy week 8-9am
5. Men's Fellowship: Shrove Tues (tomorrow) in Dining Room

District Resource Day held Feb 12, 2012 in Torrington was attended by many. Workshops attendees shared information as follows:

1. Narrative Budget – stewardship tool, connecting descriptions of how money is used with line items in a budget. George Englehardt will assist with this if we ask.
2. Nominations – recommended written materials be handed to candidates for positions. Pastor Bob requesting a paragraph from each of us with our job description be given to him by August, 2012, for next year.
3. Healing Prayer – Suggestions for prayer services
4. Long Range Worship Plan – suggested summertime brainstorming for year; suggested a monthly theme for consistency, and planning of all ministries
Book recommended: "Ministry in Hard Times" by Bill Eason
5. Small groups – Extremely important for a church – giving people a place to connect; offers inclusiveness
6. Emergency Response Team – recommended an up to date phone tree, so we can help fellow members when a disaster occurs; discussions about protection of historical data, and current administrative data from water, fire, theft, etc.
7. Children's Ministry – Use a prayer basket in Sunday school to teach prayer, and care of one another, Hold an intergenerational 5pm dinner of parents, and children, then separating the groups and holding activities age appropriate. Relationships stressed as much as curriculum.
8. Youth Ministry – How do we get and keep kids? Fun events; a place to help our youth gather; helps youth make wise choices
9. SPR – a reminder that ALL meetings at church are open to ALL members except SPR.

Other New Business:

Trustees:

1. Notice from Fire Dept was received stating the steel cylinder in the kitchen can no longer be tested. Replacement required within the next year, costing ~\$900.00. Sue Powers will approach the Fair Committee first.
2. Dedicated space – We have tied our hands over the years, allowing several room to be dedicated to various purposes, examples include: the Finance room, the Education office, the Brass and Wind room, the Bargain Center, the youth room, the Sessions Hall balconies,. This is not consistent with our goals of sharing space and our goal of increasing rental/building use of outside groups. We must be cognizant of future decisions and plan to share what we have.

Finance:

1. Pledges totaled \$105,000 for the recent campaign. This leaves us with a \$40,000 deficit. A joint meeting of the Finance and Stewardship committees is planned to address this huge concern.
2. Fundraising forms were dispensed, with a reminder that if any group is planning a fundraiser, please complete the form and give to John Rioux for Finance Committee review before proceeding.

Tag Sale: 6/2/2012 Rain or Shine (Sessions Hall if needed)

Organ Restoration Fund – Memorial Donation donors have been receiving acknowledgement. Beth Provost will develop a system for the office volunteers to notify the deceased's family of the gifts to the fund.

Pastor Bob –

1. Year End Statistical Reports – should be received from the conference office shortly and returned asap.
2. Special offerings – there will be 6 or 7 taken in 2012.
3. Lent – Rice Bags will be distributed to families, proceeds will go to UMCOR to help out with food programs – consistent with our Hunger emphasis this year.
4. Book Study – starting 3/6 (no meeting 3/13)
5. Country Cupboard Fair – New leader needed
6. Contemporary/Special Services – postponed for now. Looking for musicians
7. 8:30am service - music system is working well with new machine
8. New York Annual Conference – 6/6/12 to 6/9/12. Jeanette Baker, Stuart Brown, Bob and Terry Sorozan will be attending.
9. Vacation planned 7/12 to 7/23

Meeting dates to note:

3/15 SPR

3/29 Rethink/Outreach

4/9 Finance

“Missing members” names given to Pastor Bob for follow up.

The next Council meeting will be April 17, 2012

Respectfully,
Jill Wilson