

Council Minutes
New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ
April 17, 2008

Present: Michelle Bagby-Allen, Paul Cullity, Bob Curry, Diane Durgin, Luther Durgin, Don Goodnow, John Gregory-Davis, Doug Hatfield, Carolyn Keilig, Joyce Lovejoy, Wayne Martin, Beth Martindale, Deb Moore, Les Norman, Art Urie

The Community Gathers

Les Norman called the meeting together (held at Havenwood - Heritage Heights) at 4:00 p.m. and introduced a new format for our meetings

The Community Prepares Itself

Luther Durgin led us in a period of meditation based on Psalm 43:3-5

The Community Makes its Offerings of Service

The record of the March 2008 meeting was accepted

The Offering of the Conference Minister was presented by Bob Curry (attached)

The Offering of the Interim Associate Conference Minister – Bob Curry

Bob expressed his delight with the March 29 Special Meeting and vote to call Rev. Richard Slater as our new Associate Conference Minister. Bob continues to work collegially with Gary about the future. The Search Committee for the position of Director of Outdoor Ministries is making great strides – applications will be accepted through June 15; October 1 is the hoped for hire/start date. Following up Bob's delight with the March 29th meeting, Wayne Martin expressed thanks to Joyce Lovejoy for her efforts as chair of the Associate Conference Minister Search Committee.

The Offering of the Director of Outdoor Ministries – Beth Martindale

Beth indicated she is in pre-camp mode. Planning two retreats; working with a new webmaster to get the Horton Center website up and running; meeting with NHCUCC ministers willing to share their gifts at the Horton Center this summer; beginning the interview/hiring process for summer 2008; assisting with 2009 budgets for OM, CE & YM; preparing summer volunteer leader training requirements, sessions, etc.; meeting with Gorham and Berlin community and school leaders for summer mission possibilities; preparing curriculum for summer sessions. During the month of March Beth noted she has attended 1 camp expo in Manchester, 14 meetings, 1 retreat, 1 camp presentation (facilitated), 1 3-day New England ACA Conference in Manchester and 1 church dinner in Gorham.

The Offering regarding election to Havenwood-Heritage Heights Board of Directors – Les Norman

Les read and proposed the following be elected to the above board of directors:

Ellen Ahlgrin 2nd 3 year term

Linda Normandin 2nd 3 year term

Linda Smith 2nd 3 year term

Paul Dann 3rd and final term

Tim Sink 3rd and final term

George Theriault 3rd and final term

MOVED by Doug Hatfield; SECONDED by Paul Cullity; MOTION APPROVED

The Community Looks Prayerfully to the Future

The Offerings of Budget and Finance – Carolyn Keilig

Carolyn reported on the efforts of the April meeting. Facing a potential 60,000 deficit, she noted that there are some restricted funds that may be applied to budget requests. Noted that last fall we voted to pay off a loan. Our budget does not reflect the payback for last year. Carolyn noted four scenarios to meet the deficit:

- (1) cut requests by \$40,000; no loan payment
- (2) cut \$65,000 +/-; reduce CIF income to cover and repay loan (\$21,000)
- (3) no cuts; draw down CIF to cover (no loan repayment) \$40,000
- (4) no cuts; reduce CIF income to repay loan

suggest fundraising for target giving

After welcoming suggestions it was noted that as we had no budget to look at no action could be taken at this meeting. A budget will be presented next month upon which to vote and present at annual meeting.

It was noted that \$65,000 = the cost of the Associate Conference Minister and churches need to be challenged to financially support the staff they voted.

Question raised as to whether we could be flexible with the amount we pay back ex: 10M vs. 21K
Further suggested that fundraising is not the way to go...put emphasis on OCWM

Sharing with Others – Les Norman

Staff at the Conference Center is moving to the 'West Wing,' who might be possible tenants in the 'East Wing?' (Possible non-profits/other configurations)

Offering of Outdoor Ministries Director Search Committee – Les Norman

Job description will be on the conference website on or about May 1; position will be widely advertised

Offering of Faith Formation Task Team – Les Norman

A revised Faith Formation Vision and Mision Statement were presented and comments invited
Vision- Trusting in the work of the Holy Spirit, the vision of Faith Formation for the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ is the transformation of all persons through discipleship to Jesus the Christ.

Mission – Together, in every setting, we will equip the people of God to embody a Church that is:
Passionate in Worship, Prophetic in Witness, Steadfast in Mission and Radical in Hospitality

Offering of Annual Planning Meeting – Michelle Bagby Allen

Michelle read a draft of the letter to be mailed to churches; Judy Lloyd to put together a list of churches it will be sent to. Noted: 23 churches have not attended annual meeting in the last 5 years, 5-10 churches have attended only once. It was suggested that a statement be included pertaining to the sending of two delegates. Michelle presented a draft resolution pertaining to the time and location of annual meetings held from 2009 – 2011. MOVED by Doug Hatfield, SECONDED by Paul Cullity that council authorize the annual planning committee to submit their resolution. MOTION APPROVED

Additional Offerings –

John Gregory-Davis reported on the Executive Council meeting in Cleveland and preparations for the restructure of the covenant ministries.

Time of Sharing

Following the closing prayer; the meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m. to the dining area for the reading of the covenant between Heritage-Havenwood Heights and the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Faithfully submitted,

Deb Moore

