

Council Minutes
New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ
May 15, 2008

Present: Sandy Alley, Winn Alley, J. Bodine, Jim Christensen, Paul Cullity, Bob Curry, Don Clarke, John Gregory-Davis, Diane Durgin, Luther Durgin, Margi Galabrun, Don Goodnow, Doug Hatfield, Bill Hoystradt, Carolyn Keilig, Joyce Lovejoy, Peter Lovejoy, Fred Atwood-Lyons, Wayne Martin, Beth Martindale, Deb Moore, Cindy Naiditch, Les Norman, Gary Schulte, Carl Vitters

The Community Gathers

Les Norman called the meeting to order at 4:00p.m. Paul Cullity and John Gregory-Davis led the opening devotions and discussion on baptism: remembering it, claiming it and living it out

The Community Makes Its Offering of Service

Minutes of April 2008 meeting were accepted with the following correction: Havenwood-Heritage Heights

The Offering of the Conference Minister – Gary Schulte (see attached)

The Offering of the Interim Associate Conference Minister – Bob Curry

Bob expressed his appreciation for having been able to serve in this role. Following the theme of our opening devotions, Bob offered his report as 3 vignettes regarding walking in baptism – a student in care in Candia, an ordination in Newcastle and the nurturing of new ordinands into installation

The Offering of the Director of Outdoor Ministries – Beth Martindale

Continuing the path towards camp accreditation. Safety policies were being developed and edited by the Outdoor Ministries Board; sight assessment is being planned. At present camp enrollment is 200 (low, baseline summer – price of gas a factor for many) Beth is encouraging camperships; MA Conference mailed our brochure with their recent mailing and has put us on their constant contact list. Hiring process is ongoing.

Regarding CE and Youth Ministry: 17 attended an overnight retreat at the Dover church – A change in venue from a previously scheduled larger event.

Question regarding staffing – Beth indicated she was reviewing applications for kitchen staff.

Kudos to Beth were expressed by Winn Alley and affirmed by council

The Community Looks Prayerfully to the Future

The Offerings of Budget and Finance – Carolyn Keilig

Carolyn presented the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year; noted that 20K of restricted funds (education & leadership development) can be utilized

Good stewardship a factor in drawing up the budget

Carolyn thanked Bill Hoystradt for creating the offset page

MOTION by J Bodine to put \$100 in the Ecumenical Resource Group; SECOND by Peter Lovejoy. Following discussion (this is not an official body of the conference)

MOTION DENIED

Carolyn answered questions pertaining to General Synod line 58 and the Ukama Partnership Line 32

Pertaining to the 25K deficit Budget and Finance recommends proceeding with the deficit budget; it is prudent though not balanced

MOTION by Carolyn Keilig that council recommend adaptation of the budget as presented by Budget and Finance to the Annual Meeting gathered body. SECONDED by Fred Atwood-Lyons. Discussion followed pertaining to the benefits of bringing proposed deficit budget to the total conference versus drawing from the endowment.

MOTION APPROVED

Offerings of Caring for our Own

MOTION by Les Norman to approve housing allowance for Richard Slater; SECONDED by Jim Christensen MOTION APPROVED

Peter Lovejoy of the Prudential Committee provided an overview regarding the role of this committee and proposal for finer definition of terms. To be voted on at the next council meeting

Luther Durgin of the Personnel Committee reported that the committee is engaging in the evaluation of our Conference Minister, Gary Schule, and expect to complete that in June. 19 of 23 surveys sent out to people who have been involved in Gary's ministry have been received back

Sandy Alley presented a draft of Compensation Guidelines for Authorized Ministers. Discussion followed pertaining to assigning a financial number based on the heterogeneity of New Hampshire, other conferences are guided by compensation based on community standards. Language in the introduction will speak to the diversity of churches and stress that the guidelines encourage churches to sit with prospective pastors to negotiate a package that will allow clergy to live in the community they will be serving. It was stated that education about the package and how CCL arrived at the \$33,200 figure will be important for those gathered at Annual Meeting

Final package will include spreadsheets representative of a couple of scenarios

MOTION that the Clergy Compensation Guidelines (after final editing) be presented to Annual Meeting SECOND by Carolyn Keilig MOTION APPROVED

Offering of Outdoor Ministries Search Committee – Les Norman shared that 8 applications have been received to date. It was noted that the job description did not require credentials or experience on the part of applicants

Prior to adjourning the meeting, Les indicated that there would not be a meeting of the Conference Council in June; the next meeting would be in July.

Time of Sharing

Don Clarke led us in a closing prayer; the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Faithfully submitted,

Deb Moore