

Council Minutes
New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ
August 16, 2007

Present: Jim Christensen, Don Clarke, Paul Cullity, Luther Durgin, Margi Galabrun, Don Goodnow, Ken Gould, Andy Jepson, Carolyn Keilig, Wayne Martin, Beth Martindale, Deb Moore, Les Norman, Gary Schulte, Art Urie,

Les Norman opened the meeting with prayer at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes of the May meeting were approved.

Loan Arrangements: Ken Gould presented his report regarding loan arrangements as well as the history behind initial set-up. Following discussion, Ken requested authorization for he, Cindy and a member of the investment committee to come back with a plan. MOTION: Authorize treasurer, former treasurer and one member of the investment committee (to be named) to investigate a change in our loan situation and report back to council. SECOND: Luther Durgin. APPROVED

Schedule of upcoming meetings: Council will meet the third Thursday @ 4:00 in September and October. November and December to be determined.

October 5-6, 2007 a retreat for council members will be held at Pine Mountain. The purpose of the retreat is to acquaint members with Pine Mountain, participate in team building and develop a sense of what it means to be council. Discussion about the role of council followed; missed opportunities by council were put forth by various members; visibility, support and communication to local churches on a conference and national level discussed. Council members were encouraged to visit the UCC website, sign the pastoral letter regarding Iraq and encourage members of their congregations to do the same.

Devotions for the coming months:

	<u>Opening</u>	<u>Closing</u>
August	Les Norman	Wayne Martin
September	Art Urie	Don Goodnow
October	Carolyn Keilig	Jim Christensen
November		
December	Luther Durgin	

Reports:

Budget and Finance: Carolyn Keilig offered the report as of the end of July noting the board has a new chair, treasurer, and new CFO in process.

>Receipts for OCWM better; churches have heard the message to keep up with pledges.

>Staffing: Ali will be paid along with a new person increasing payout. With Sue Farris's resignation a communication consultant will be hired as well as a new receptionist also increasing payout.

>Income from Verizon contract is being realized.

>Annual meeting came in under budget.

>Audit has been done for 2006. Suggestion made that Cindy work with new staff person to implement recommendations regarding bookkeeping.

>Church building loan fund: about 10 years ago \$3000.00 was budgeted and has never been used. VOTED BY COUNCIL: Return to the Bicentennial Fund \$3879.40 unless otherwise directed.

Report of the Conference Minister – Gary Schulte

>Welcome and welcome back to all! Gary noted energy around returning committees.

>75 of 144 churches:

31 have pledges current

10 have not reacted

16 have paid in full; Gary will write notes to those churches

2 have paid 200% of pledge by 7/31

>Personnel changes and interviews for finance person, receptionist, and work room coordinator have kept him busy. Forty applications have been received. A communication consultant will be hired for two days a week and will entail Horton Center site; Quarry edition of the UCC news; NHCUCC website; promo materials for outdoor ministries, committees and commissions. Jan Cote has been carrying an extra amount of work during this time.

>Verizon contract 4/1 - \$1800.00/month began coming through in July.

>Gary provided an update on a current litigation case.

Report of the Transitional Associate Conference Minister – Andy Jepson

>Churches in transition: Newport, Hancock, Harrisville, Hampstead, South Newbury Union, Community Franconia, Hollis.

>Churches beginning to appreciate the interim time: beginning good good-byes leading to good transitions and a settled pastor.

>Discussion around looking at churches where a pastoral change has occurred and how OCWM support has been effected. It is helpful for a pastor to know what the conference has received.

>Christian Education: Apple Polishing workshop will occur 10/20 at South Church in Concord. Morning workshops, intergenerational worship, child

care, displays – all to meet needs on different levels. \$10.00 per person includes lunch. Suggestion made to change the name of the event; Andy provided history around the naming.

>Andy and Nancy Murdock have been working on a CE newsletter, and looking at e-groups for CE people.

>Accessibility findings: committee is strong; a possible theme for an annual meeting.

>Safe spaces: packets were available at annual meeting

Report of the Director of Outdoor Ministries – Beth Martindale

>Beth noted that summer has been a success with minimal change being noticed on the mountain. She now knows how Horton Center does and does not work.

>Enrollment Numbers: 550 with 24 offerings 2007 –preliminary

767 with 34 offerings 2006

624 with 25 offerings 2005

>Need for an understanding of the role of Outdoor Ministry. Hard work required for the changes that need to be made: strategic, spiritual and physical work.

>A Christian Education piece needs to be done.

>Les thanked Beth for her stability.

>Discussion around infrastructure at the Horton Center. No two items are alike; failure of an item requires a trip into town.

Facilities and Grounds

>Council had previously approved the concept of a facility and ground committee to evaluate facilities at the Conference Center and at Horton Center

(twice a year); needs to be followed up on. Members named: Bruce Begley, Mel Burrowes will be the Outdoor Ministries Board rep, Margi Galabrun agreed to represent council. Art Urie will take matter to the nominating committee.

>It was noted that Horton Center closes in October and that the site manager's contract needs to be followed up on.

Yearbook

>Discussion pertaining to the present format and its unwieldiness. Many are left over; not as useful or user friendly as it might be. Discussion about what might be put on the conference website led to further discussion about church accessibility to computers. Information should be available and accessible to the people who need it.

Meeting was adjourned and the Closing Prayer was offered by Wayne Martin.

Faithfully,
Deb Moore