

Congregational Church of Laconia, UCC
Minutes of Council
March 26, 2008

PRESENT: Russ Beane, Sandy Brallier, Don Clarke, Jean Clarke, Emily Clement, Martha Clement, Dave Coddington, Tammy Emond, Kathy Giovanni, Bob Harrington, Doreen Joyal, Helen Joyal, Alida Millham, Beth Shehadi, Sue Smith, Dan Tinkham, Pat Williams

The meeting was opened with a round of introductions.

Emily made a motion to approve the February meeting minutes. Jean seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Bob reported that the newly combined Worship and Music committee had held its first meeting. The committee is exploring ideas on incorporating new musical styles into the worship service. He noted that the committee can be contacted when the council wishes to plan a special service. There will need to be some creativity in recruiting ushers, as most of the committee is also in the Choir.

Jean presented a job description for Church Historian. Shirley Bacon is the currently appointed Historian. Because of the size of the task, to address the "Records Preservation" portion of the description, another person needs to be recruited. Some options are to seek out a professional archivist, and to approach the Laconia Historical Society (Bob Harrington and Bob Holbrook are on the board). The first step is to pull all of the materials together. Jean will place a notice in Tower Tidings to solicit volunteers.

Pat, representing Diaconate, presented a video about Equal Exchange, an organization that provides Fair Trade coffee and other products. The council had agreed some time ago as a Peace and Justice initiative to serve Fair Trade coffee at coffee hour, but for several reasons this has not been happening. There was discussion about holding a "Fair Trade Coffee Hour" where the video would be shown and different flavors of coffee would be available for tasting. There was also discussion about the use of something other than Styrofoam cups at coffee hour. As part of this discussion, Tammy distributed some information about Just Peace Churches.

Alida presented the Video Policy drafted by an ad hoc committee. Several suggestions were made for changes. Alida will bring these suggestions back to the committee. The group viewed portions of an edited worship service DVD. One comment that was made is that the quality of the recordings far surpasses the initial expectations. Russ suggested that a message be added to the end of the recordings stating that the donations of Peg Grothey have made them possible. Emily made a motion to accept the Video Policy with stated updates. Martha seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Space Needs Assessment discussion: Dan suggested that this process start with the Finance and Property committee. Dave requested the committee chairs to discuss their

wants and needs regarding the facility at their next meetings. At this stage, to make the “wish list”, all aspects of the facility should be considered, without consideration for cost. Beth asked the group to consider what changes could make the facility more welcoming.

Doreen reported for Educational Ministries that a Movie Night will be held on April 12th to raise money for the Campership Fund. Emily is researching the need for a license to show the movie. Kathy reported that the committee is also discussing curriculum choices for next year’s Church School.

Alida reported for the Ministry of Outreach that they are engaging local agencies to discuss community needs. Bobbie Thomas will speak to the group about refugee issues.

The Spring Rummage Sale was discussed. No date has been set – it is critical to do this as quickly as possible. Dan will recruit a leader for the sale using Tower Tidings.

The meeting was closed with a Shalom Circle.

Next Council meeting: April 23, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Giovanni, Recording Clerk