

Congregational Church of Laconia, UCC
Minutes of Council
October 24, 2007

PRESENT: Russ Beane, Warren Bouton, Sandy Brallier, Jean Clarke, Emily Clement, Dave Coddington, Kathy Giovanni, Marilyn Lynch, Alida Millham, Judy Nelson, Beth Shehadi, Dan Tinkham

Judy opened the meeting.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved.

Alida gave an update on the stewardship program. A letter was mailed to the congregation this week. Warren's sermon on October 28th will be a lead-in to the program. Several people are needed to speak during the service on the topic of the relationship of faith to giving. The leadership supper held on October 18th was attended by about 25 people and was a good start. Alida stressed the importance of council leaders and committee members being a part of the enthusiasm and support for the program. A letter from Warren will be mailed following his sermon on the 28th. Dan mentioned that there will be follow-up needed after Consecration Sunday with people who did not attend. The work group will meet again to finalize details. Janet Heslam has confirmed that she will serve as Guest Steward on Consecration Sunday.

Reports from committees:

Parish Activities: Judy reported that she is assisting the Nominating committee to find new committee members. Special food is being planned for coffee hour on November 4th, when John Thomas is visiting. The Consecration Sunday luncheon is being planned. Dave Decker will coordinate the Hazel Duke Thanksgiving dinner, with the Forsbergs leading the way in the kitchen.

Educational Ministries: Emily reported that the new church school format is settling in. Each Sunday the group meets as a whole and then divides for activities, finishing with a Shalom circle. The four youth groups are all active. Emily has been working on the Circle of Grace program and the all-church Thanksgiving card project with the Diaconate. The Stitches of Love group has started a new project, knitting hats and mittens for foster children.

Diaconate: Beth reported that 25 people attended the first lecture in the new Circle of Grace series. The committee is discussing a Prayer Chain idea. The Caring Connections program now has 14 visitors working in teams. A caroling activity is being planned for December 16th, youth groups will work on ornaments to deliver while caroling. A crèche theme has been suggested for the church Christmas card, with donations going to Ann Peck. The committee also is discussing some Advent ideas.

Membership: Marilyn reported that Cindy Santy is coordinating plans for another Progressive Dinner. New members will be received on November 18th. Letters have been mailed to some members who have been inactive for a lengthy period of time.

Trustees: Items discussed at the last meeting were paving of the driveways next year, snow removal quotes, and cleaning and maintenance of the ceiling fans in the sanctuary. Craig Shippee is putting together information on roof replacement. A quote was received for landscaping at the Parsonage. As a Boy Scout leader, Dave asked for permission to sell Christmas wreaths at coffee hour, the group agreed that this was fine.

Nominating: Jean reported that the committee is moving along with its work for the year. A question had come up related to the voting rights of "extra" members on some committees due to changes in the by-laws. All members will have voting rights in the event of a surplus and the group agreed that this would not be in violation of the by-laws.

Other Business: Alida reported on the Moderator's Forum held recently. The group that attended discussed perceived strengths and weaknesses of the church and a number of opportunities for the church to build partnerships, particularly in the downtown community. Warren is considering joining the Main Street organization.

Emily has been in contact with the Christian Education leader at Gilford Community Church about doing some combined Youth Group activities.

Helen Joyal has submitted an item to Tower Tidings soliciting help for the Christmas Fair.

Corey Crowder, an acoustic Christian musician, will perform on January 11 in the Sanctuary. Emily is working with Tammy and Tyler Emond to coordinate the event. Others will be involved as needed.

Warren closed the meeting.

Next Council meeting – November 28, 2007, 7:00 pm

Opening – Marilyn Lynch

Closing – Dan Tinkham

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Giovanni, Recording Clerk