

Laconia Congregational Church
Diaconate Minutes
April 16, 2008

Present: Sandy Brallier, Elsie Burbank, John Burbank, Judy Genre, Bob Holbrook, Beth Shehadi, Kay Vercoe, Diane Wells, Pat Williams, Warren Boutin

Our meeting was opened with a reading by Pat Williams.

Kay agreed to fill the Secretary slot.

Pastor's Report

Warren reported that someone had broken into the Parish House and taken a laptop and cash from the Office.

Events coming up

Clyde Rainey, Habitat for Humanity Director of Community Relations, will be speaking at both services on April 20th. Friday April 19th a dinner will be held in church hall to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Habitat in the Lakes Region. Ed and Louise Bastille will be speaking on May 11th (Mother's Day) as Warren and Brenda will be away at Ben's graduation.

We are now fully capable of producing DVD's. Several people have received copies, and Ollie Anderson will be meeting with the Public Access TV people soon to see about a spot for our service.

Reflections on Lenten and Easter Activities

There were many very positive comments received about the Agape Feast. The setting, lighting, food all combined to make it a very meaningful experience.

Beth noted that there was a problem in filling all the time slots for the Easter Vigil. Some discussion about having the Church open Saturday only. Some said it would not be the same and that we should try to talk to people to create more interest in experiencing the Vigil.

Circle of Grace

Pat noted there were approximately 20 people who attended the first session Sunday (4/13). We talked about what is a Just Peace Church, what our church has done and what it could or should be doing concerning Just Peace. The hope would be to come up with a plan of action at the end of the four- week session.

Beth noted that the Deacons have been sponsoring these discussions. We need to support and pass the word, inviting more to attend.

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Treasurer's Report

Bob reported a balance of \$680.98 in the Deacon-Dorcas Fund, and said he would be going to the bank soon to request a \$6,000.00 draw from the Julie Upham Trust Fund. John made motion to approve report, Diane seconded. Report approved.

Communion Update

Elsie reported some communion cups were damaged from too much bleach (used to disinfect) in the water. She thought we should no longer use bleach to disinfect the cups

Elsie has put 180 cups on five plates to be used for communion. Do not use the other cups unless needed. She has cleaned the closet room upstairs. In the drawer are seven small napkins (for covering bread) and seven large napkins (for covering juice trays). After washing and drying goblets, should fill with paper towels to take up any excess moisture.

Caring Connections

Diane reported that on April 1st an April Fool's Day Tea was held at the CLC. Pictures for the Church Directory were taken by Warren. There was also music and refreshments.

It was suggested that a Caring Connections presentation could be done at our Coffee Hour on May 2th.

Sunday School has made May Day cards and they will be delivered Sunday (4/20).

Environmental Stewardship for Fall Series

Beth suggested we do an "Environmental Challenge" in the fall and also hold a Coffee Fair (Fair Trade items), which was talked about in our Lenten Series. Will talk more about this at our May meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday May 21st

Opening: John Burbank Closing: Diane Wells

Next Coffee Hour: May 25th.

Warren closed the meeting in prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Vercoe, Secretary