

Congregational Church of Laconia, UCC
DIACONATE MINUTES
MARCH 21, 2007

Present: Betsy Domin, Diane Wells, Gail Brewer, Bob Holbrook, Sandy Brallier, Robbie Neylon, Judy Genre, Pat Williams, Carolyn Furber, David Furber

Absent: Eva Littlefield, Ralph Martin, John Burbank, Elsie Burbank, Beth Shehadi, Don Webber, Joanne Whitticom, Phyllis Veazey

Also present: Alida Millham, Warren Bouton

Sandy Brallier called the meeting to order substituting for Beth Shehadi whose father was ill. Diane Wells opened the meeting with a verse from the BOOK OF SOLOMON.

Pastor's Report:

- Warren noted the deaths of two members: Don Tuson and Betty Altman.
- He gave an update on Elsie Burbank's recovery and the fact that Jean Bengtson broke her hip. Also, Irving Sweetser is out of the hospital.
- On Sunday March 25, our church will be receiving nine new members into the congregation. Edith Gosnell, Earl and Gail Miller, Bobbie Morin, Theresa Peters and Judy Raybeck will be received at the 9:30 a.m. service. At the 8:00 a.m. service we will be welcoming Brad and Carolyn Jorgensen and Michelle Palella Veazey. Warren commented he felt it fitting to receive them into membership at the service they attend. He also mentioned that the Membership Committee suggested we use the word "affirm" rather than "approve" when the Diaconate accepts new members' names. Bob Holbrook so motioned; Betsy Domin seconded; the motion was passed unanimously.
- Gail Brewer suggested putting names, addresses and telephone numbers in the "Tower" soon after new members joined.
- Warren asked for two deacons to stand with him on Sunday. Sandy Webber will do so at the 8:00a.m.service; Sandy Brallier, at the 9:00 a.m.

Communion and Deacons' role: Sandy Brallier took new deacons through kitchen procedures. Mention was made that we need deacons to serve and set-up communion on April 1 at 8:00 a.m. and at the future 8:00 a.m. services. Diane Wells and Sandy Brallier volunteered. Sandy Webber mentioned that as deacons we are responsible for communion distribution and all should be willing and trained to serve communion at the 8:00 a.m. service. Sandy Brallier mentioned it might be nice to have a presence at the 8:00 a.m. service. Further discussion will happen next month.

Ushers: Robbie Neylon is looking for head ushers for April, July and December. Their job is to find 4 (four) ushers for the services. It was agreed there should be a printed list of head ushers' duties readily available. Pat Williams agreed to do July.

Prepared to Serve: Sandy Webber, Betsy Domin, Gail Brewer and Diane Wells briefly shared their experiences at the Prepared to Serve conference in February. All agreed that it was excellent and that the food was great! Topics included the Muslim religion and a Christianity comparison, Mission, Media Impact on Learning, Alzheimer's, the Greening of our Churches, Stewardship and Spirituality.

Pandemic Emergency Update: Diane Wells mentioned if our church had a generator, it would make an excellent emergency site. It is centrally located and has a good kitchen. Further thoughts will go into this as we study the issue.

Palms: Diane Wells requested \$29.95 from the Deacons' Fund for palms. The request was approved.

Minutes: Approval of the February minutes was voted on and accepted.

Committee Reports:

1. Treasurer's Report: Bob Holbrook gave the February, month ending balance of \$5,642.98.
2. Coffee-Conversation: Cancelled in March. Sandy Brallier said the few people who came were canvassed and felt it should be continued. We should recommend it to people who have any type of loss. The next meeting will be on April 17.
3. Lenten Contemplative Series: Martha Clements will be "Journaling" on the 25th. Sandy Brallier suggested taking flags to coffee hour and asking people to do them. Also the Sunday school children will be helping. Pat Williams said the Prayer Vigil will have sign-up sheets and instruction sheets in the narthex. She also mentioned that the Yoga teacher gave her a Jesus doll to keep until the end of April, and Pat will bring it to the church for the Prayer Vigil.

Tennabre Service: Warren explained the service that will be held on Maundy Thursday at 4p.m. Communion will be served. Eight readers are needed – Sandy B, Sandy W, Don W, Pat W, Betsy D, and Robbie N volunteered. Diane Wells will set up for communion.

Easter Service: Ushers still are needed for the Easter Service. The issue whether to have two services or one was discussed since it was brought to Warren's attention. Sandy Brallier felt at such a late notice, we should keep our worship to one service this year. However, we want to be accommodating, so we should look for input from the 8:00 a.m. service and re-evaluate this later. All agreed. Alida Millham said she would communicate to the membership about the Easter service.

Roses for the Altar: Diane Wells explained the single roses on the altar were to celebrate birth and commemorate members' 90th birthdays celebrating their longevity in life. The deacons agreed to pay for this out of the Deacons Fund. Carolyn Furber will call the florist for flowers for Sunday.

Caring Connections: Restructuring of Caring Connections is moving forward. Baskets will be on the back tables at church in order for people to sign up for visitations. After the Easter festivities we will have a training session for those interested. A date will be announced. Please let Diane Wells know via email to whom you can deliver a palm and lily after church on Easter Sunday.

Buddy List: Sandy Brallier explained the use of the "Buddy List" for all deacons.

Coffee Hour: April 15 is our turn to host the coffee hour. Sandy W will head it up.

General Synod Meeting: Alida Millham discussed the General Synod convening on June 22nd and the week long conference of the laity September 1-3 at Star Island. There also will be a spring Forum April 18 at the First Congregational Church in North Conway. The speaker will be Karen Maleri; and the subject, The Sandwich Generation. The cost for registration and lunch is \$8.00

Betsy Domin read the closing, "God's Baseball Game"

Next meeting:
April 18, 2007

dew/SLW