

Church Council United Church of Strafford
Minutes from Meeting of November 15, 2015 DRAFT

Present: Bill Burden, moderator; John Hawkins, trustees; Kerry Claffey, treasurer; Becky Bailey, deacons; Joey Hawkins, stewardship; Lynn Wickberg, pastor

- 1) report on conference on “church in inventive age” – take-aways from attendees (Lynn, Becky, Dori, Joey)
 - don’t try to imagine the mythical person who would come – think about the people you actually have
 - power of people telling their own stories – no longer a creed, dogma – more individual spiritual stories
 - ages of society, church: agrarian, industrial, informative, inventive
 - challenges of using the building (s) for money-generating things
 - Kerry: reminder that our people are sometimes not able to come – need to be at home for various reasons

- 2) visiting: Lynn has reached out to people – some want to be visited, some not – has been going to seniors and getting to know some people so they know you’re there, familiar – sees that connection with community as important, and that the deacons and church also are (and need to be) committed to this- Steven ministries could be looked into

- 3) church secretary: Dori has written up the needs for, first, a secretary – more than just to fill in for Dori, but longer term (like Sharon D did, and the Connelli girls). Includes the bulletin plus the weekly email newsletter and listserv notice about weekly , and also the Strafford News article.

Becky: maybe find out what Dori is still willing to do from long distance, and suggested we have one person who would make sure all the lists are done. Bill has offered to be that person, sort of an overseer of the job. Dori thinks (we think) she could still do the electronic newsletter, trustees could do office supplies, Kerry do the mail. Newsletter mailing needs to be done soon, when Dori is still here. Needs to go out before Thanksgiving! Bill will check with Dori, Becky and Joey will help get the physical mailing out. Phone needs to be checked, but can’t be checked remotely. Kerry will get a new phone with directions.

4) Trustees report on finances: 25% through year, but 35% money has come in. We have spent 21% of budget, so we’re in decent shape. Lords Acre was lower due to no silent auction. Steps done, plumbing fixed, tree is coming down in lower village by parsonage.

5) Stewardship: Pledges are at around \$36,000 with 21 pledging units; Joey will send reminder letters to people who usually pledge – maybe around 10 people. Also, we noted that some people send in pledges right before the end of the year

6) Advent service will be focused around stories that capture the season – one or two each Sunday. The Christmas letter will go out before Thanksgiving, explaining this approach to Advent services, and will include an envelope for Christmas gifts. Deacons will arrange ahead of time for the families who light the Advent candle.

7) Deacons: not a new deacon until next year. They are looking at their mission statement and if they make suggested changes. Deacons are referring people to the food shelf at Coburns. It looks like people needing to use the food shelf need to go through Sue Coburn. Deacons will need to clarify what the process is and to find out if someone from the church is on the board. Becky will find all this out. The council agreed that we need to have a representative. Maybe the minister or a deacon could get food privately if confidentiality is an issue.

8) Mission Committee: 162 cans of soup have been collected; the drive will continue to Thanksgiving. They are also collecting change for Heifer Project, and also working with Sharon food shelf. Currently, they are looking at other projects as well.

9) Pastoral Relations: Danette will be Lynn's representative; she would like description. Greg will be on from Deacons, John Echeverria from Trustees. Need to set up a meeting schedule, probably every three months.

10) Imagine a Church: the ad hoc committee will write up a report that the Imagine a Church meetings have been held and the data has all been compiled. The council suggested the documents be made available on the website and that a short report be put in the newsletter. Joey will write the short report.

Suggestion: start forming the settled pastor church meeting. This should be broad based, probably about ten people. The council generated a list of possible names. If anybody wants to be on the search committee, let Bill know. Bill and Joey will write up a job description of the search committee.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30.

Joey Hawkins, acting clerk