

## **UNITED CHURCH OF STRAFFORD**

### **Council Minutes August 21, 2016**

#### **The meeting was called to order around 11:30 am, with opening reading by Bill**

Attendees: Bill Burden, Moderator & Ad Hoc Search & Mission; RJ Farley, Deacon & Nominating; Ken Bushnell, Endowment; Joey Hawkins, Stewardship & Ad Hoc Search; John Hawkins, Trustee; Kerry Claffey, Treasurer; Becky Bailey, Deacon; Dori Wolfe, Clerk; Ada Race, guest for part.

**Settled pastor search committee-** The UCC Conference finally has all the information needed to upload. Vacation schedules have contributed to delay, but Joey will be in touch with both the UCC and the ABC conferences in the next couple weeks. Sharon and Tunbridge are also searching for settled pastors, and the question was posed by the UCC if we might be interested in job sharing. Although it adds complications, it will not be ruled out. We are grateful Lynn agreed to stay on as needed.

#### **Reports from Trustees, Deacons and committees:**

##### **Trustees-**

- Financial report – the 2015-2016 fiscal year closed out with no surprises. Final numbers to follow. The 2016-2017 budget was reviewed and minor revisions suggested. Audit is underway, being done by Judy Sears for a very reasonable sum of \$300. Kerry to provide back-up invoices. The Endowment committee continues to seek carbon-free funds.
- Parish Hall bathrooms and hallway done; Parsonage bedrooms painting done; next will be the library and Parish Hall.
- Upcoming projects – It has been determined that the Parsonage septic system is in need of replacement. Matt Barker of Maple Hill Works was called in to investigate with a camera. The new design will require the lot lines to be determined. The western boundary line is unclear. The well pump is shared with the property to the west. Further investigation is required. In the meantime, Jay's Septic will be pumping every 10 days or so and the tenants will be encouraged to conserve water.

##### **Deacons-**

- Dori will give the disclosure form to both Annemieke and Jane, as both will be working with children.

##### **Stewardship committee-**

- As of the end of June, pledges were at \$38,881, on track for the \$40,000 goal. The 2016-2017 pledge letter has been sent out.
- Thank you notes have been sent to all 40-45 folks who helped at the rummage sale. The sale earned \$4,020, which has been allocated as previously agreed by the council: 30% general fund; 25% deacons fund; 25% Mission Committee; 10% Ruby Lornell Fund; 10% Olive Lewis Fund.
- Lord's Acre Oct. 8! Ideas are being generated. Annemieke is available to play; Linda Ducharme will be asked to be chef, with a special request for "Ned Flannel Hash" in memory of Ned Coffin. Committee is needed.
- The church received a very generous gift from the Ned Coffin estate, for which all were grateful. The council will deliberate on how it will be earmarked.

##### **Mission Committee-**

- \$2K was contributed to the Newton School Healthhub; and two couches have been purchased for the Veteran's Place.

**Safe church procedures** – (On the table) Need to review, update and do training.

**Reports from any other committees/groups** – Nominating Committee has openings for the clerk, two deacons, and one trustee. Suggestions welcomed.

**Any other business-**

- **Annual Meeting:** Sunday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>. Reports due by Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. Meeting to be warned and reports made available by Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Next meeting** - the Annual Meeting will double as the next council meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dori Wolfe / Clerk