

UNITED CHURCH OF STRAFFORD
Draft Council Minutes October 23, 2016

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

Attendees: Bill Burden, Moderator & Ad Hoc Search; Danette Harris, Mission; RJ Farley, Nominating; John Echeverria, Trustee; Becky Bailey, Deacon; Dori Wolfe, Clerk; Bill and Linda Williams, guests.

Minutes from past meetings: Minutes from the January 17, February 21, June 5, and August 21 meetings were filed as written.

Reports from Trustees, Deacons and committees:

Trustees-

- Financial – no report.
- Parsonage septic report – From John Hawkins, via email: we are at last done with all the septic designs, inspections, and permits and Matt Barker will start replacing the system at the Parsonage on Monday. Even factoring in weather, he believes he will be finished by the end of the day Thursday. Good news – the cost will be lower than originally anticipated.
- Audit – need to check with Kerry. Some documentation may still be needed.
- Bill Williams found a Parsonage Engineering Report from 2014 in his paperwork. It has been turned over to the Trustees.
- A roof leak was reported during the rains earlier in the week.
- Bill Burden reminded the trustees of the request to install glass in the doors of the library as recommended by the church safe church policies.

Clerk - Since Dori will be leaving for Houston full time come the new year, she will put all church files from over the years into a cloud-based file for access by all staff, church council and boards.

Deacons-

- The deacons did not meet in October. There are currently only 4 deacons – Kim, Greg, Gretchen, and Becky.
- Thanksgiving service will be at 10:00 am at Our Lady of Light Chapel on Thursday, Nov. 24.
- The Christmas Pageant will be on Dec. 18 at 5:00 pm.
- The Christmas Eve service will be at 8:00 pm.
- After discussion, the council recommends encouraging all to attend Christmas Eve, and while the sanctuary will be open and heated for those who would like to come the next day (Sunday, Dec. 25) for quiet meditation, we would like to give our pastor and music director the day off.
- Music – Nov. 6 joint choir with flute should be wonderful, and music is planned for Advent and Christmas, including the Pageant, although not officially in Annemieke's contract. Anna Alden has been approached to help with a larger work next summer. Money for music is being addressed by the trustees.

Stewardship committee-

- Lord's Acre was a success. From an emailed Stewardship report, we took in about \$1,700 between the show and the dinner, and \$1,514 from the silent auction (once everyone has paid). Our understanding is that the ads for the program took in another \$1,100 - so the total for the Lords Acre celebration will be about \$4,300.
- Stewardship pledge drive has so far yielded a total of 23 pledging units (individual or family). We are still about \$6,000 short of our budgeted goal of \$40,000. At the end of 2015, we had 28 pledging units for a total of \$40,000. Second letters will go out by the end of October to those who have pledged previously, but not yet submitted their pledges for this year.

Settled pastor search committee-

- The committee will be meeting with Pam Lucas and Dale Edwards on Oct. 30 after church. Thirteen applications from the ABC and one pending from the UCC Conferences are to be reviewed. (Since this will be a long meeting, including lunch, the council cancelled the 5th Sunday potluck.)
- It will mostly likely be mid-Nov. before next steps of deciding how to evaluate, short-list, interview, and hear them preach.

Mission Committee- The Committee is preparing to help the Sharon Food Shelf with holiday basket contributions (turkeys for Thanksgiving and Hams for Christmas). They will match up to \$200 for the One Great Hour of Sharing hurricane Matthew flood relief, with collection envelopes available for the next three Sundays.

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

Reports from any other committees/groups – It was suggested to purchase 10 additional hymnals. Dori to research.

Next meeting - the next council meeting on the third Sunday will be Nov. 20 after church.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dori Wolfe / Clerk