

**UNITED CHURCH OF STRAFFORD**  
**Draft Council Minutes June 5, 2016**

**The meeting was called to order 11:36, with opening prayer Lynn**

Attendees: Bill Burden, Moderator & Ad Hoc Search; RJ Farley, Deacon & Nominating; Ken Bushnell, Endowment; Danette Harris, Mission; Joey Hawkins, Stewardship & Ad Hoc Search; John Hawkins, Trustee; Pastor Lynn Wickberg; Dori Wolfe, Clerk.

**Comments from our Pastor:**

- Mission – Wanda Salter from Lynn’s home church, with her two teen agers, thru Gilford UCC church went to Kenya. Wanda is going back to offer professional expertise and support for an orphanage. She can take some basic stuff. Coordinating with the Mission Committee about Wanda doing a presentation on Sunday July 24<sup>th</sup>. That Sunday will be Mission Sunday.
- Lynn encouraged the council to put out another newsletter. Agreed for a mid-June publication. Please send all articles to Dori for inclusion.
- Boundary Awareness was worthwhile. If we can host, or partner with another local church, it could be repeated.
- Dori to write thank you note to Strafford postmaster for the donated items.
- “Our children, Climate, Faith” symposium will not need space at the church – it will be held in WRJ Coolidge in October.

**Settled pastor search committee-** Excellent document. Minor suggestions were made, then by consensus the council supported sending on to the conferences. The council is grateful for all the hard work. 9 members have a break while profile goes out. Lynn is willing to stand in for a practice interview with search committee.

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

**Trustees-**

- Lynn’s contract extension has been signed and sent on to the UCC conference.
- Kerry’s report shows financials in good standing. Audit still not happening, so the trustees, with help from the Audit Committee, will actively hire someone to do it.
- Budget for 2016-2017 is being created. Please let John know if there are cost items for the budget from your committees.
- School health clinic ongoing donation: Discussion ensued as to whether to put in budget, as it is intended to be funded from the endowment. Church could designate a total 5% of endowment for specific purposes (we already have 3% that could be spent as needed by Trustees). Church could say 2% of endowment every year for mission purposes to go into budget. Should be voted on by the church.
- Childcare budget – After a recent search committee meeting, Jane Prescott mentioned the benefits to having childcare available regularly. RE Committee to discuss possible format with Jane.
- New music director person – MOU written up and given to Annemieke McLane, after which the contract will be drafted and signed. Correction to the treasurer’s report – any donations for this effort will be held in the UCS music fund, not the Michael Manheim Sacred Arts Fund (although funds from the later may be used to support this effort).
- Parsonage driveway – to minimize conflict with neighbor, the church will hire the same contractor, Jimmy Kendal, to plow both driveways. John Echeverria will help define boundaries better and set conditions.

- Upcoming projects – Paul Kifner to paint bathrooms and Parish Hall, and both bedrooms upstairs in the Parsonage after Nancy Gerlach’s service.
- Paul has been hired by Nancy’s family to bring in system for overflow crowds.
- John to talk to electrician about pulpit light.
- Second bell pull – funeral bell – second hammer broken (should not be wrung at the same time as the main bell).
- Church clock repaired by Trader Fred – don’t overwind the clock; 2 or 3 turns – if doesn’t work, move the minute hand a bit to release.

### **Deacons-**

- Deacons meeting the second Sunday and will discuss Lynn’s time off (1 week of continuing Ed in July, July 17 off; vacation – can carry over? July – 4-12 is a possibility).
- Lynn voiced her gratitude for the care of community – Ned’s service; Nancy’s service, care for Pat.
- Lynn appreciated the church’s openness to having Rev. Mary Thompson part of Ned’s and Nancy’s services. The council felt sufficient time has passed to make it completely acceptable. Bill noted that as Emergency Coordinator, the town lists Mary as emergency counselling support.
- Music Director- Annemeike is excited about the 2 year music program, with a special focus on children to begin in August. It was recommended that a parents steering committee be formed to help encourage attendance. She will be in church 3 Sundays a month average, with Christmas, Easter and special adult event in the summer with Anna Alden.

**Stewardship committee-** Pledges are coming in as they should. Last year the pledge drive was late (September newsletter). While not ready for the June newsletter, the committee will begin consideration of timing the drive.

### **Mission Committee-**

- \$575 was sent to refugees through One Great Hour of Sharing – allowing OGHS to decide recipients.
- \$200 given to the Sharon Food Shelf.
- Exploring “Tatem’s Totes” – Sometimes when a foster child gets placed, they have no toys, clothes. This is an organization that puts together totes to give to new foster children.
- Veteran’s place – trying to get some new couches for them.
- Magazines for hospitals ongoing.
- Develop a relationship with a missionary? More global picture with wider support. Closest was leper colony; Gloria Vincent – UCC and Global Ministries. Worth pursuing.
- Mission Sunday – discussed above. Possibly spread out other agencies to other Sundays throughout the year.
- Danette away this summer; Bill and Dot to have checkbook

**Safe church procedures** – (On the table) Need to review, update and do training. Lynn advised that additional glass doors should be installed in library, as was done in the nursery and the office.

### **Reports from any other committees/groups**

**Kitchen update.** Since Deacons support Hospitality, they will keep up with kitchen and bathroom supplies. The Trustees have an account a Coburn’s Store on which items should be charged, emailing Kerry, so he knows to withdraw the funds from the Olive Lewis fund.

### **Any other business-**

- **Board and committee nominees for 2016-2017 church year** – Ken agreed to help RJ and Hazel on the nominating committee. Dori to provide the current list of positions. Dori suggested, due to possibly being away October-April, that either a new clerk be found, or a co-clerk.

- All ages one-day music festival in lieu of Creation Care Camp - Dori to coordinate with Annemieke about a possible one-day event in August, with children in the morning and adults in the afternoon.
- Root beer floats this year? No.

**Next meeting** - July 17<sup>th</sup> 11:30 am.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dori Wolfe / Clerk