

**SIMSBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
February 10, 2009**

Joanne Maurer
Kate Frazee
Cassandra Garcia
Peg Mayer
Anne Hartman
Jim Ray
Paul Douglas
Hal Johnson
Debra Gice
Heather Ryan

Rudy Maurer
Jerry Frazee
John Wiles
Clayton Cutler
Rick Hartman
Charlotte Ray
Pat Adams
Jean Sumner
Dick Adams
Dorothy Cowles

Nancy Hawkins
Frank Hawkins
Charlie Mayer
Jeff Euting
John Stewart
Woody Eddins
Jon Webber
Jon Gice
Carol Krogh

1. OPENING PRAYER: The opening prayer was offered by Pastor Woody at 7:03.
2. SPIRITUAL GROUNDING: A poem about believing in ourselves as Jesus believed in himself was read by Chair Dick Adams.
2. WELCOME & INTRODUCTOINS: All members were introduced and welcomed to this new year of church council business.
3. LLI: Joanne Maurer, LLI Director presented the council with a proposal for a fundraised for replacing several existing pieces of classroom furniture and/or possibly purchasing a second 4 seat toddler buggy. The fund raiser would be held in November and would have tables "for sale" to vendors from both within our church and out. The council gave unanimous approval.
4. CHARGE CONFERENCE MINUTES: Minutes from the December 2, 2008 Charge conference were approved as submitted.
5. ROLES AND RESPOSIBILITIES OF CHURCH COUNCIL: Pastor Woody shared that church council is where all committees come for approval and ownership of all activities which enables better church wide support and communication. Each committee chairperson (or representative) has the responsibility to attend every council meeting and be actively involved.
6. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Hal Johnson presented the 2009 balanced budget summary. The 2008 year ended with a \$7,928 surplus, 2007 ended with a short fall of \$8,015 which leaves \$87 deficit. The 2008 budget included \$51,756 income from LLI and also included \$154,004 from endowment monies. The endowment contribution for 2009 will be just \$38,800 and will be used for specified known repairs that will be needed in 2009. Jon Webber moved that the budget for 2009 be approved. Jon Gice seconded and the motion was passed unanimously. Pastor Woody reminded all that the detailed budget with the entire line item breakdown is available if anyone wants to see it.

7. STAFF PARISH RELATIONS REPORT: Jon Gice reported that the elimination of the Church Administrator position was done to help balance the budget. The then subsequent resignation of the Youth Director, which will now hopefully be staffed by volunteers, further helped to balance the budget. The duties of the Church Administrator have been for the most part assumed by church members but a lot of continued effort will be needed to help keep up with the needs. For the first time in many years formal job descriptions and performance evaluations of all staff have been done. All staff are performing well. They have also been working with Heather Ryan, Church School Director to be in compliance with the safe sanctuary policy of the conference. This should be accomplished by the March Charge Conference. It was requested that SPR publish the list of which individuals are overseeing which jobs that were formerly part of the Church Administrator responsibilities. Jon will send that out.
8. LAY LEADERSHIP REPORT: Clayton Cutler reported the new members on the Lay Leadership Committee (Heather Ryan, Amy Bobinski, Bill Gerlach and Wanda Jones) are already engaged and working. Lay Leadership recently assembled a committee to study and present recommendations regarding the stained glass window replacement. Lay Leadership is continuing to work on finding church members to fill a few remaining open committee positions (two Rep. to Annual Conference, two LLI committee members, a representative to church council from the Spiritual Life committee, and Member-at-Large positions). They are also working to coordinate with the New Member Committee to get new members connected and involved with committees they may have an interest in, on succession planning for chair positions on committees and developing a relationship with each committee to help fill any needs they may have.
9. NEW COMMITTEES: A Memorial Committee was recently formed with members Mary Gridley and Linda Swearingen. There is currently approximately \$38,000 in memorial monies which have been contributed from many families over the past several years. The committee will work together with a representative from the Trustees and the families to determine ways these funds can be spent to honor the family members and fulfill a need of the church. They will be responsible for acknowledging and thanking the families and keeping a record of the contributions and how they are spent. They will also be responsible for overseeing current "fixed" memorials (benches, plaques, gardens, etc.). The other new committee is the Spiritual Life Committee which was formed to foster the spiritual life of the congregation – be that classes, retreats, support groups, etc. Pastor Woody will be working with the committee to help determine its direction.
10. CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP: The goal of determining Church Council membership is to provide consistent, sustainable, committed involvement and attendance by its members and to assure that all groups/committees of the congregation are represented. A complete list of voting church council members was distributed to those in attendance and will be presented at the March 8 Charge Conference for formal approval. This is not in any way intended to restrict membership. Any church member may submit their name to be elected a Member-at-Large if they are willing to make a one year commitment to attend council meeting and be engaged in the work of the council. Specific information about the Member at Large will be published over the next couple of weeks before the Charge Conference.

11. NEW MEMBER COMMITTEE: Jon Webber reported that there are 7 potential new members at the present time. Two issues the committee wanted to reaffirm – especially with the leadership of the church – are asking members to wear their name tags and “help in the pews” – asking all to help be responsible for greeting those who are new and then letting someone on the New Member Committee know. Members of the committee are: Jon Webber, Penny Carroll, Clayton Cutler, Jeff Euting, Jay Fearington, Jean Staley, Lucy Morris, Linn Taylor, and Jan Bennett. A member of the committee will be at the Tower exit following the services to greet visitors. They are also working on developing a new SUMC brochure. Cassandra made a couple of suggestions regarding attracting new members: once a week tell someone about your church, do more advertising of our church and it’s activities, and use some eye catching billboards.
12. TRUSTEES: Trustees are taking steps toward assuming responsibility for the building(s) issues.
13. CHURCH SCHOOL: Heather Ryan reported that attendance for P-7th grade is averaging about 50 children per week which is the same as last year. All teachers and shepherds are set through the end of the Church School year which is May 17. With Scott Chambers gone there is no one to lead Jr. MYF – they are still hoping someone will step up. The Senior High class is encouraged to attend worship, join the choir or help with church school. The Safe Sanctuary Policy is in place but there will need to be some background checks done. The April Centennial theme is Church School so they plan to have some displays in Wesley hall and hopefully something during the worship service. Randy had 21 youth go to Butternut Mountain snow tube. He wanted to have some photos on our website (parents have approved) so the council supported this decision using first names only. VBS this summer will be with St Albums and First Church.
14. YOUTH MUSIC: Junior Vision Seekers will be rehearsing for their upcoming musical – there are 29 children in the musical. They had a pancake dinner before the rehearsal this week. The musical will be on Friday March 27th, Sunday the 29th for the church school, and then after church for Beldon Forest. Feb 15 the children’s choir will be singing as part of the Centennial Celebration. March 15 will be the Spaghetti Dinner Cabaret. As a side music note - \$900 was raised at the CAYA benefit concert for VIM
15. OUTREACH: Paul Douglas reported that Peter’s retreat will have Zelma’s gumbo for February. He also mentioned the possibility of getting Stephen Ministers involved in just coming down to visit and talk with the residents there. There was a limited response from the congregation regarding the IRIS project. There is interest from a few other congregations in the area so that it might be possible to pursue this as a group. There will continue to be more discussion and information gathering so they will report back later in March.
16. STAINED GLASS: Trustees have given approval for the use of \$225,000 of endowment funds for “maintenance” of the windows which would be replacing with “plain” glass. Lori Garcia, representing the Stained Glass Committee reported that Lynn Hovey, a noted authority on stain glass and its conservation, will be at SUMC after the 10:30 service on February 22nd to do a comprehensive presentation about the possibilities and options for replacing the windows with partial or full stained glass. The committee has arranged to have childcare and snacks for the children so parents can attend. The committee has developed printed materials to help educate the congregation on all of the specifics regarding the windows and an interest survey regarding donations for memorial windows (there is no plan for a capital campaign). This information will be made available over the next couple of weeks at services and on the website.

17. GOOD OF THE ORDER: Dick Adams reported that 11 of 22 people completed the survey he sent out and asked that others please take the time to do so. He along with Pastor Woody mentioned an overload of emails to Woody and asked that specific request go directly to committees when possible. Deb Gice announce the schedule of upcoming Church Council meetings as follows: **March 8th** Charge Conference following the 10:30 service, **May 19, July 21, and September 15**, all Tuesday evenings at 7:00. This is the proposed schedule which is subject to change depending on church needs.
18. CLOSING PRAYER: Closing prayer was offered by Pastor Woody and the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Debra Gice, Council Vice-Chair