

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF HUNTINGTON
Church Board Meeting
January 5, 2016

Board Members Present

Laurie Barnett, Chris Brosius, Ron Brosius, David Cozzens, Larry Detweiler, Barbara Elliott, Roland VanDyk

Absent Board Members

Melissa Myrick-Dubay

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm. The prayer was read and blessings were shared.

Pastor's Report

- Neighbor Helping Neighbor
 - Approximately \$1,550 was collected for NHN in conjunction with the Christmas Eve service.
 - Larry is expecting a contribution from the Starksboro church for about \$1,700.
- Pastor 'Positions'
 - As part of his long-term strategy to be able to continue ministering to our local communities, Larry is now juggling 5 positions which have enabled the pastoral contact to be reduced by \$22,000
 - Pastor of the Community Church of Huntington
 - Pastor of First Baptist Church of Starksboro
 - Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program
 - Chaplin at Central VT Home Health & Hospice
 - A new per diem interfaith chaplain position at the UVM Medical Center which started in December
 - Additional savings have been actualized by the pastor picking up the cost of his family health care plan
- Baptism
 - Larry requested permission to perform an infant baptism for a local family on a Saturday morning this spring, with the Thursday night small "New Parish" group in attendance. Larry has shared with them the process of 'dedication' that has been done within the tradition of our church and that baptism is traditionally the introductory ceremony into the life of the church. However the parents are seeking a baptism for their child this spring/summer. Larry has affirmed that this request is a statement being made by the parents that they are committed to bringing this child up in faith and spirituality. Larry likened willingness to offer this as being a similar approach to how he invites everyone to the table on Communion Sunday, no matter where they might be in their faith journey. Larry expressed hope that in being flexible in this matter, we would be setting a precedent that our church is willing to meet people where they are and that we will try to minister to their spiritual needs in a way that is meaningful to them.
 - Chris moved and Laurie seconded that the Board support and approve Larry's request to perform the infant baptism for the DeRoucher family in our church.

Building & Maintenance

- Sunday Service
 - Sunday service will be held in the annex from beginning January 10 through end of March.
- Cleaning
 - Adam will not need to clean the Sanctuary during this time. Roland will check with Adam about cleaning the basement one time this Spring in lieu of cleaning the sanctuary.
- Shoveling
 - Rolland is coordinating the shoveling of the sidewalks with DJ Detweiler, with payment to be \$250 now and \$250 at the conclusion of the winter.
- Annex Rental
 - The annex forms have been updated to reflect the rental fee increase to \$100, which includes use of the kitchen.
 - There is an outstanding payment due for the \$25 per day usage fee for the art camp held last summer. Laurie will follow up.
 - The Board agreed to establish the daily rental rate at \$100, with a \$50 cleaning deposit.
 - For multi-day usage, the Board will research the idea of a fee structure of \$100 for the first day and subsequent, consecutive days at a rate of \$50 per day. (For 2 or more consecutive weeks, the first day rate would be \$100 and the daily rate for all subsequent weeks would be \$50 per day.)

Pastoral Relations

- Pastor's agreement
 - The Pastor's agreement for 2016 has been signed and a 10-week sabbatical from end of May to early August has been approved.
 - Looking at some creative ways of holding services during this time
- Deacons
 - Chris has lined up readers and service participants through the end of April.

Finances

- Hunters Breakfast
 - The Board expressed appreciation to Laurie Barnet, Beverly Little Thunder and Heidi Racht for coordinating Hunter's Breakfast.
 - The financial impact of not holding Hunter's Breakfast on Sunday was not a significant financial shortfall.
 - The overall feedback from community members was positive.
- Spring Breakfast
 - The Board would still like will explore the possibility of doing a Spring Maple Fest, that might compliment the Saturday pancake breakfast put on by the Boy Scouts.
 - Laurie will talk with Heidi Racht to explore this possibility.
- Pastoral Expenses
 - There is an additional \$800/month reduction in pastoral compensation for 2016, over the previous reductions that have been actualized the last couple of years.
 - As a result of the adjustments to Larry's compensation package, made possible by the per diem positions he has taken on, our financial status is much more stable.

- The \$22,000 overall reduction in pastoral compensation over the past couple of years includes a \$4,000 reduction in mileage; a \$3,000 reduction in health care savings account annual contributions; and a \$9,600 reduction as a result of Larry assuming the cost of health care insurance. To accommodate the hours required for his per diem positions, Larry's hours have been reduced to 30 hours per week.

Website

- 5 people are using the website for online giving including a regular donor to NHN, a one-time end of year gift to NHN and a family that is making their weekly church contribution online.

New Business

- Assistant Treasurer
 - Deb Hunton's move to North Carolina created an opening for one of the co-treasurer positions. We are pleased that DJ Detweiler has agreed to serve as Assistant Treasurer. He will begin working with Dave Cozzens in March.
- Replace Board Member
 - Les Hunton's move to North Carolina has left a vacancy on the Board. The Board will recruit and recommend a replacement Board member.
- Palms
 - The Board gave Dave approval to order the palms for Palm Sunday.
- Youth Message
 - It was brought to the Board's attention that we should consider re-instituting a youth message on Sundays. This could be something like the puppet shows that were previously (and quite popularly) produced by David and Becky Cozzens.

Next Meeting

- The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, March 10 at 7pm.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Elliott