

**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**March 21, 2011**  
**7:15 pm**

**Present:** Jeanne Daggett, Cliff Gibson, Dave Hasenbalg, Kristin Hardendorf, Ruthie Holton, Lewis Vissia, Michael Bush, Donna Clarke

**Absent:** Kevin McCloskey, Sara Worcester

**Welcome**

**Opening Prayer**

**Bible Study:** The Council continued its exploration of the book, Transforming Congregational Culture by Anthony Robinson, which was begun at the March 5th retreat facilitated by Pastor Michael. There was a fruitful discussion, and Council members stated that they would like to see more sharing with each other about spiritual matters. They also expressed a desire for getting to know one another better.

It was decided that each Council member would email minutes and updates from individual meetings so as to allow time in Council meetings for more spiritual matters. It was also requested that news and information from individual Ministry meetings be placed in the Beacon to let the whole church know of Ministry activities and updates. This will allow time for Council to think about unity and direction. It was pointed out that any member of a Ministry could place an article in the Beacon and send it to Sharon, not just the leader.

Prayer about discussion

**Health Updates from Ministries:**

**Pastor Michael:**

- Nothing critical to discuss, expressed gladness that people are reading the Beacon.

Prayer for Michael

**Lewis:**

- Abundant Life is utilizing web pages.
- Missions will be meeting to discuss online submissions.
- Mike Boyer will be uploading sermon onto the website.
- Minutes will be put online after they are approved by the Council. Any changes or corrections will first be addressed by the recording secretary.

Prayer for Lewis

**Kristin - Missions:**

- CROP walk will be May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The Appalachian Service Project has 5 people going
- There are various knitting and sewing projects that are ongoing within the church
- Jenny Waller will be working on the website – setting up a link to the Nursery School
- There will be information on the Bulletin Board in church for members to receive news about activities.
- Encouragement cards: Megan and Dustin are leaving for Jordan and Kristen urged Council members to write them a message before they leave. Cards were passed around for each person to write them a note, and then collected to be sent right away.
- Discussed using church grounds for a Community Garden to produce food for the food pantry. Need to check on the legalities and ordinances. All members agreed it is a great idea.

Prayer for Kristin

**Karen – Worship and Caring:**

- Planning Holy Week services, Lois Viets is in charge of Sunrise service.
- They are discussing the aspects of the worship service.

Prayer for Karen

**Dave – Human Resources:**

- There is a need to have a mechanism for feedback. It was expressed that some members don't know who to talk to and perhaps creating a suggestion box would provide a vehicle for communication— What are Council's thoughts? Maybe a Q & A section in the Beacon? Pastor Michael expressed that it should not be a "drive by" suggestion box – would suggest that we ask for names.
- Discussed having 'Talk Back' sessions, and having a council member available for dialogue. Council discussed trying it and having members take a turn.
- Discussed a Ministry Table. Once a month having a ministry sit at coffee hour, let all know who and what the ministry is. Dave will talk with his team about how to facilitate this.

Prayer for Dave

**Physical Resources:**

➤ Council member absent and no notes were received. Discussion: Cliff Gibson asked if someone else from the ministry should attend the council meeting if leader is not available? If you cannot be at the meeting, let the moderator or vice moderator know and have a representative from your ministry attend. Mentioned that there was still no financial report from Physical Resources. Was asked if updated financial reports should automatically be here? It was a regular practice in the past.

**Ruthie Holton – Spiritual Formation:**

- Game night was a success even with a power outage. Twenty people attended.
- Lenten Series luncheon – 20 people attended. Expressed joy that 2 people came out of their comfort zone to lead a session of the series. The focus for each of three sessions was on Forgiveness.
- Spiritual Formation discussed the list of suggestions that grew out of the pastoral evaluation and identified suggestions that pertained to their ministry.
- Wants to focus on communication, writing Beacon article. Also, creating a chart of teams and posting it for congregation to see who's on what. Added Emmaus as a team as we have 20 adults and youth from East Granby.
- Will be forming small groups and training lay leaders. Thinking about adequately and effectively training teachers and are offering Bible Studies.
- 40 women will be attending the Women's Retreat on Saturday. Theme is Joyful Hearts and Dancing Spirits, based on the Psalms. The Retreat will be led by Pastor Sara.
- Spiritual Formation is in the process of talking about summer opportunities, plans TBA. Tentative dates are July 15, August 5 and August 19.
- Megan and Dustin will be traveling to the Mideast, and they are asking for prayers for their mission. Please spread the word that we all be careful of statements on the internet.

Prayer for Ruthie

**Cliff – Vice Moderator:**

- Men's Group. Dana Thompson is taking on a leadership role. Meetings are 8:30 AM every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. Several planned activities include cooking Saturday night dinner at Emmaus, serving coffee and acting as greeters once a month, and putting on a Mother's Day breakfast. Eleven men attended the last meeting. It was expressed that men are searching for fellowship in this church.

Prayer for Cliff

**Donna Clarke – Abundant Life:**

- Posted jobs and ministry positions in the Beacon and had discussion about that at last meeting.

Prayer for Donna

**Moderator: Jeanne Daggett**

Gave council a chance to read minutes from 2/21/11 and make additions or changes.

Prayer for Lauren, recording secretary.

Kristin made one change regarding new members on Missions. Minutes were approved. Lauren will email changes to Lewis.

Bylaws review team met on 3/15/11 and named Erica Demke as their leader with Brad Wolfe as backup. Rachel Korhonen agreed to be recording secretary with Wayne Korhonen as backup secretary. There are 15 team members. Team members were to write down their ideas

and submit them to Rachel. They will meet every Tuesday. First meeting went well – they have 45 to 60 days to finish their review. Any questions? None

The Review Team will prepare a written report and will present it to the Council upon its completion.

Prayer for Review Team

### **Pastor Sara's Installation Ceremony –**

Michael reported that the soonest date will be in September. Sara asked for dates and the Hartford Association informed her that the ones she chose were taken. Sara would prefer a Sunday Night Alive Service, as she is most comfortable there. Would like to have a meal served before the ceremony.

### **New Business:**

A letter was received from Gayle Wilcox – one of the Emmaus leaders – regarding use of the church on Friday nights from 6 – 10 pm from August 26<sup>th</sup> to November 5<sup>th</sup>. The Emmaus weekend would then be from Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. Gayle has requested that her home church host the event for which she will serve as Rector. Discussion followed, stressing on any conflicts with regular church schedule, and use of Sunday School classrooms. We can work around it with this much notice. Cliff made a motion to accept Gayle's request and it was passed.

Kristin suggested we table the discussion about the budget for now. However, Council members were urged to consider their needs with regards to the budget as well as direction for the whole church.

**All council members will send out their reports electronically, to Jeanne, the Thursday before the next meeting, which is April 18<sup>th</sup>.**

Moderator: we will table the rest of the items on the agenda.

FYI – meeting on 4/14 to review trusts with Bank of America.

Prayer for Jeanne

Closing prayer

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm