

East Granby Congregational Church
Council meeting minutes
June 20, 2011

The meeting was called to order @ 7:15Pm by Moderator Jeanne Daggett

Present : J. Daggett, C. Gibson, L. Vissia, K. Hardendorf, R. Holten, D. Hasenbalg, D. Clarke, L. Stuck, K. McCloskey; Rev. Mike Penn-Strah , representing the UCC

- Meeting opened with prayer
- Reverend Mike Penn Strah facilitated a discussion and detailed the process of beginning the transition to a new pastor, including searching for an intentional interim pastor, and then moving toward the search for a settled pastor. He also covered information regarding guidelines for departing pastoral services, and answered questions posed by the council. Rev. Ineke Mitchell will return from her sabbatical July 1, and will then take over official duties with EGCC as we move along through the process of transition. Rev. Penn Strah completed his presentation and left at 8:15PM.
- The council reviewed the summary minutes of the All church meeting from the June 19th meeting, and approved with minor edits.
- The council reviewed the minutes from the May 16th meeting and approved same
- A draft letter to the congregation was finalized by the council, intended to insure that the council continues to communicate frequently with regard to the search process, and transition period. Main points of the letter were agreed to be
 - An interim search team will be assembled consisting of a rep from each ministry, and one “at-large” church member. D. Hasenbalg will assume responsibility for assembling the team.
 - This team will be authorized to hire for the interim position, after approval from the officers.
 - The UCC does not suggest or require an all church vote to approve the interim hiring.
 - The steps of the interim process will be : Search, Recommendation, approval by officers, & finally contract.
- Moderator asked each ministry chair to canvass their teams to find a volunteer to serve on the interim search team. Dave Hasenbalg will receive nominations for the at large member from the congregation.
- The moderator reviewed the remaining agenda of the meeting
- Council agreed to delay the bylaw review work until sometime in the fall, due to the need to focus on the priority of other matters facing the church. She will communicate this to the bylaws team and the church as a whole.
- Pulpit supply for the summer, until interim ministry is finalized, will be the responsibility of worship and caring, and Karen Pestana will assume leadership of that task
- Brief ministry reports were given as follows
 - Missions & Outreach: Kristen reports that Matt turner is getting final approval from the boy scouts and the garden project will begin shortly. The budget has been redesigned to fit the expected available funding levels.
 - Abundant Life: A transition of leadership is underway from Donna Clarke to Lauren Stuck. Donna was thanked by the Council for her service and leadership. Lauren reported that they are considering a fall tailgate sale and entertainment in the evening. No date is set.
 - Physical Resources: Kevin McCloskey reported on various projects but no major issues with our buildings. No financial report was given.
 - Worship & Caring: Karen is speaking with Pastor Sara regarding keeping things on track during the transition time.

- Human Resources: Dave Hasenbalg is placing the feedback mechanism on hold to focus on the search processes. A Ministry fair is being arranged for September 25th.
- Spiritual Formation : Ruthie Holton reports that the youth Sunday service and teacher's breakfast were great successes. Men's ministry group is moving along, meeting once per month on the third Sunday morning.
- The council decided that there will not be full ministry meeting in July, but that individual ministries were able to meet as necessary, at their discretion.
- The next Council meeting will be at 7:15 on Monday, July 18th, 2011.
- The council closed with prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30PM

Respectfully submitted
Cliff Gibson, Vice Moderator