

APPROVED Oct 8, 2018

## Diaconate Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2018

**The Diaconate is responsible for the spiritual guidance, special services and liturgies of the Church, and will assist the Minister(s) with same. We seek to foster a close spiritual relationship between home and church.**

**In Attendance:** Herb K., Lorinda W., Carol W., Margie M., Eric R., Beth W., Rich S., Charlene B., Mike M., Sandy F., Tim K., Deb V., David W., Julia S.

Ministers: Rev. Cunliffe, Rev. Jay

**Opening Prayer:** Rev. Cunliffe. Special mention was made of member Ken D., 95, who was facing surgery in the morning at Hartford Hospital.

### **Business Meeting:**

Motion made, Minutes from August 20, 2018 meeting were accepted as amended, noting a couple of typos and addition of attendees to last month's meeting.

**1. Financial Reports:** The following fund balances were reviewed and specifics were discussed as noted:

Diaconate Operating Budget for 2018: \$4074

- YTD Expenses \$1491.66
- YTD Balance \$2582.34

Home Benevolent Fund YTD Balance \$17167.03

Memorial Fund YTD Balance \$5630.88

Seminary Fund (Hull/Lathan Trust) YTD Balance \$6853.05

- \$4000.00 restricted
- August Expenses \$53.33- Connor F. background check (1/3 cost)
- Extensive and costly psychological evaluation (C.F.) will be coming in next months

Herbie Knight III Fund YTD Balance \$3920.06

- YTD Income \$0.00
- YTD Expenses \$250.00

Motion made, Financial Reports accepted.

**2. Discussion about the purchase of a 'pop-up tent'** for the joint use by managerial committees for various Church functions. It was suggested such a tent would be used at Celebrate Wallingford, Christmas Fair, Christmas Stroll, etc. Tim K was not definite as to size of tent to purchase, was thinking it would be approximately 10'x20', roughly \$800.00, to include Church name / logo. \$150.00 is earmarked to come from the Trustee Committee.

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Concern was expressed about making sure the tent would be easy enough to assemble for frequent use.

Motion made, accepted to purchase tent from Memorial Fund Budget.

**3. Sanctuary Use:** There are no requests pending for the rest of the month or October.

The sign-up sheets were circulated around the table. A reminder to all to check the on-line link weekly, and add your name as available.

### **Ministers Reports:**

**Rev. Jay** distributed a list of the 12 confirmands for the class 2018-2019, and their class schedule for the year until Confirmation Sunday June 2, 2019. There will be a Pot-luck breakfast meeting, Sunday September 23, 2018, 9:00 - 9:55, confirmands and their parents. An invitation was extended to the Deacons to attend.

The Church is close to posting a part-time position for Church School Director, ~10 hours/week September - May, ~5 hours/week June - August. Trustees approved position. Please share with all who might be interested in applying.

Rev. Jay and Lisa have been working diligently to update the church school and member database. Many new families attended the 'Catch the Spirit' Sunday to kick off the new school year.

As a result of working on the member database, names have been identified as now inactive members- members that have not been either in attendance or financial support of in the church for better than two years. Rev. Jay provided a list of members that she suggests be moved to 'inactive' status. This action does not remove their membership. Motion made, accepted to move list of 37 names to inactive status.

**Rev. Cunliffe** gave thanks to Margaret for her on-going dedication to the membership files, and kudos to all involved in Catch the Spirit Day- managing tables, cooking, fellowship, etc.

Rev. Cunliffe is brainstorming with her team, looking into creative worship possibilities. Be prepared, be supportive! She'd like the youth of the church more involved in worship service, interested and open to suggestions to include and embrace them more.

Taize service will continue until the last Wednesday of September, at this point.

Looking to develop a technology team to assist in the communication and marketing of Church information, via newspaper, FB, Twitter, etc. Sue P shares the photos she takes on the church website, Karen B has volunteered to help. See Kathy with ideas/names. Encouraged to 'check in' to FB when you are at church. There is also a private FB group for church.

Confirmed the Home Benevolent Fund is to be used for members of the Church only.

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### **New Business:**

Discussion digressed from strict review of Chapter 3 and 4, 'Becoming a Blessed Church'. Herb described personal observations of the last few Sundays at our own blessed Church, where the Church had visibility outside of the front doors. What he described- celebrating church service on the lawn, Catch the Spirit Sunday, etc.- is evidence of experiencing the spirituality of the Diaconate, of the Church first hand. There are many opportunities in the next months and year to continue that calling: Celebrate Wallingford, an organ concert on Halloween night to entice folks in enroute to the party on North Main Street, Christmas Fair, Wallingford 350 Jubilee Celebration (Church Float for the Parade? June 20, 2020). The Church address is a perfect location to have and host activities, post signage for various activities.

Church Rummage Sale is planned for **Celebrate Wallingford** weekend, October 6-7, 2018. Herb will sell kielbasa and kraut, and sausage and pepper/onion sandwiches at a Church tent on South Main Street, \$6.00 each. Goal is to raise \$4000.00. **Volunteers needed for 3 hour shifts: Oct. 6, 11:00 - 7:00, Oct. 7, 12:00 - 5:00.**

**Diaconate membership:** Deacons are encouraged to recruit 10 new members. We will need new Junior Deacons to support Lorinda and Herb next committee cycle.

**Silver Lake Update:** October 12-13, 2018 Men's Ministry. Envelopes to be in pews October 14, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of October every year to support Herbie Knight III Fund.

**Stephens Ministry and Visitation update:** Cliff was not at the meeting, no Stephens update. Several Deacons mentioned members that they are visiting or helping out.

**Trustee Update:** Outside consultant hired to evaluate Church attendance/ functionality, to review our strengths and weaknesses, committee make up, by-laws and guidelines. One goal is to use this information to reach out to those members that may not regularly attend services or functions, to tie in with the Deacon and Trustee committee discussions on reading 'Becoming a Blessed Church'.

**Art Show in Congregational Hall** is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday October 13-14, 2018. Also, the **Music Committee** plans a secret celebration to honor Jeanette's 25<sup>th</sup> year at the Church, Sunday October 14, 2018.

**Next Meeting:** Monday October 8, 2018, 7:00, @ the Meeting House.

**Homework:** Chapters 3, 4, and 5: Open to God as Power.

Closing Prayer, Motion to Adjourn.

Respectfully submitted: Julie S

Thanks for being present tonight and always!