

Nashwaaksis United Church
Council Meeting
November 8, 2011

Church Council met on Tuesday, November 8, 2011, with the following persons in attendance: Rev. J. D. Kennedy; Priscilla Geisterfer; Winnie Bates; Heather Brannon; Maureen O'Hara; Bob Bartlett; Jackie Saunders; Bob Andrews; Ian Gilchrist; Barb Simmonds; Lola Crawford; Donna Dykeman; Betty VanBuskirk; Jeanie Whitehead; Jessie Rowe; Eva Colpitts; Joan McGee; Paul Smith; and Linda Dunham.

The meeting opened with prayer by Rev. J. D. The minutes of the October 11, 2011 Council meeting were approved as circulated. Paul reported that the JNAC (Joint Needs Assessment Committee) has begun their process.

Meeting room issues:

Linda reported that complaints have been received with regard to the condition of some rooms being left in disarray after groups have met. An email has been sent to groups who meet from Monday to Thursday evenings. It was emphasized that the room be left as they found it and that the space that is being used be respected by all. There was some discussion that an answer to this problem might be to install locks on the two larger rooms and only leaders who meet in that particular room would be authorized to have a key. It was agreed to monitor this situation further to determine if any action is needed.

Reports:

Rev. J. D.: Rev. J. D. thanked Maureen and Stephanie for their work on the new website. He reported that the use of videos in recent worship services has been well-received.

Priscilla: Priscilla reported that both the Wonder Café and the Caregiver/Tots programs are going very well. She noted that the youth will hold a fundraiser selling advent candles which will be on display at the UCW Bazaar.

Worship: Jeanie reported that the Breakfast in Bethlehem event will be cancelled this year due to a lack of response from volunteer organizers. Christmas decorating will be done on November 26th at 10 am. Lots of help wanted! The White Gift service will be held on Cantata Sunday, Dec. 11th. The Christmas service on Dec. 18th will involve the Godly Play children in music and story. Christmas Eve services will be held at 4:00 pm; 6:30 pm; and 10:00 pm. Discussion was held also on a Christmas Day service by J. D.

The Worship Committee will provide groceries for the Hawkins/Neville lunch program this month. Their Committee will take a look at our current Marriage Policy at their next

meeting. Jeanie commented that the Remembrance Day service was very nice with both J. D. and Priscilla bringing a message, along with the youth participation. The attendance at worship services recently has increased significantly.

Christian Education: Maureen reported on the Youth Rally (4 of our youth attended) at Forest Hill United and thanked Presbytery for its support. There will be an event this Sunday (Nov. 13th) on “acceptance” for youth grade 6 and up in the “Who Am I” series.

Family Night: No Report.

Pastoral Care: No Report.

Outreach: Lola reported that their Committee is receiving support for the Hawkins/Neville families. Two families will be supported this Christmas as in the past. On the occasion of the one-year anniversary of the John Howard building, it was suggested that a spaghetti dinner be provided for the residents on Dec. 16th. It would be beneficial if a minute person gave a short message during the Benevolent Sunday service. Their Committee will help with the Christmas visits to shut-ins and new families again this year.

Finance: Ian reported that the total offerings for October this year were slightly higher than the same month in 2010 for the General Fund, Capital Fund and M&S Fund by \$193. The offerings in the General Fund for 10/12ths of the year are still lower than our predicted 2011 budget. Expenditures in the General Fund for the first ten (10) months of 2011 are lower than budgeted. The Committee is forecasting the overall deficit by the end of the year will be between \$2,000 and \$5,000. This is lower than the budgeted deficit.

The Stewardship Program was kicked off last Sunday, November 6th, with Rev. J.D. and Priscilla giving their sermons on the value they provide to NUC. This program will continue throughout November and will run from February to April 2012. Other committees and groups will be asked to make short presentations to the Congregation during Sunday services and Finance will soon be contacting the various committees and groups in order to make a schedule for their presentations. The presentations should stress the value each committee provides to the church and the local community.

At the last Council meeting it was mentioned that the office computers are slow. They are six years old. Keith Murray has taken on the task of determining what is required and will solicit proposals from suppliers.

The Finance Committee is in the process of preparing a Christmas letter to the Congregation, asking them to consider making a Christmas gift. They expect to have the letter in Linda's hands for copying by the week of November 14th and distributed to the Congregation on Sunday, November 27th.

Property: No Report.

Board of Trustees: No Report.

Ministry & Personnel: A few members of M&P present noted that the Committee is planning for its annual staff reviews.

UCW: Winnie reported that the annual UCW Christmas Bazaar will be held on November 19th. They will also take part as always in the Christmas visitation along with Pastoral Care and Outreach Committees. They will also cater to a bowling banquet.

Presbytery: Jackie reported that Presbytery will be meeting on November 24th, 2011, in Harvey.

Other Business: Paul set the date of the **Annual Meeting -- February 19th, 2012.**

In accordance with a suggestion at the last annual meeting, a nomination committee will be chosen to select a vice-chair of Council. It is believed that new people in our midst be approached to become involved in Council. Events like a ministry fair to explain what the various committees are all about would make it possible to find out if someone is interested in a specific committee of Council. Write-ups could also be put on the website to keep people informed.

Next meeting: December 13th, 2011, in the Parlour at 7:00 pm.

Linda Dunham, Secretary

Paul Smith, Council Chair