

## **Diaconate Meeting Minutes:**

**May 14, 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.*

**Attendance:** Gail B., Bob B., Karen B., Charlene B., Cliff C., Jessie D., Sandy F., Ellie H., Steve H., Herb K., Marjie M., Mike M., Eric R., Julie S., Leslie S., Deb V., Lorinda W., David W., and Carol W., Beth W.,

**Ministers:** Rev. Cunliffe, Rev. Jay

6:00 pm Social and Fellowship

**Business Portion:** 6:55 pm Opening prayer by Rev. Cunliffe

1. **Minutes of April 9 2018:** **Motion** to accept was made and unanimously approved

2. **Finical report:** Motion to accept was made and unanimously approved

2018 Diaconate Operating Budget:	\$4,074	YTD Balance:	\$2,716.04
Home Benevolent Fund:		YTD Balance:	\$16,526.98
Memorial Fund:		YTD Balance:	\$5,480.88
Seminary Fund:		YTD Balance:	\$6,780.92 (\$4,000 restricted)
Herbie Knight III Fund:		YTD Balance:	\$3,920.06

3. **Sanctuary use requests:**

a. **Motion** to approve the placement of collection envelopes in the pews on Sunday May 27<sup>th</sup>, to benefit Holy Joe's Café Inc., non-profit entity

Discussion on Community and World Service sponsorship of non-profit missions (such as Holy Joe's and BAWA Health)

**Motion Approved unanimously**

b. There were no baptismal requests for May 2018.

4. **Ministers Report:**

Rev. Jay:

*All things are possible through Him*

1. Reviewed the 5/13/18 service lead by the confirmand class; class to attend the UCC Church in New Haven on 5/20 followed by a tour Center Street
2. **Motion to accept** the class members, 8 names presented, as new members; **motion approved unanimously**
3. Discussion on the upcoming voids in the Christian education programs, both Superintendents resigned effective end of this school year; no replacements to date: Carol asked about the role of Youth Minister and the potential for him to take on some of the Christian Education; Rev Kathy explained his limited available time to serve more hours; 2 Assistants to Youth Minister only paid for weekend hours; an exit interview will be done with both Heidi and Pam to get input for going forward
4. Church Sexton, Sherry, also retiring 6/29/18; Trustees reviewing potential to hire outside services v. staff member. Her retirement will create a void as Sherry has done many things beyond the description requirements.
5. Pastoral care has been in high demand, many funerals and service needs (10 -11 since April)

Rev. Cuncliffe:

1. Pulpit coverage: Rev. Jay on vacation 7/16 – 8/16 and 1 week in Aug; Rev. Cuncliffe will also be gone during some of the same time period; previous discussion was that Connor Filkins might be able to fill but this is not the case given his summer divinity schedule; Rev. Charlene Bruce will provide coverage and Connor may assist (dates not firm).
2. Discussed options for Memorial Day Sunday, any input on specific music, content, please share with Ministers
6. Café Conversations: Rev. Cuncliffe provided overview of the set-up, structured conversation with guidelines to move the conversation in the spirit of appreciation and celebration, hope filled, “listening to understand”; Herb Knight will provide an incredibly delicious dessert selection and breakfast.

### **New Business:**

1. Conversation centered on Chapter 1, “Becoming a Blessed Church”. Rev. Cuncliffe read the scripture passage from the book.
  - Beth: Who are we, we are inclusive as a church
  - Carol: How do we show “Faith” , there is a cultural change, example attending Sunday church service no longer an important role; there is a sense of spirit without the sense of obligation
  - Julie: The 1<sup>st</sup> chapter theme was based on negatives; we are a Blessed Church; asked for clarification on the intent of reading the book; the book/message did not resonate with her
    - Rev. Cuncliffe: The book is setting out the obstacles we need to overcome; to change the view from focus on the negative to the positive; how we address and view the issues
  - Cliff: “mega” churches are “catching the spirit”, what’s the draw?
    - Eric: Mega churches are younger/newer, not as much tradition; for him tradition is part of the draw to attend church
    - Jessie: Mega churches, like in southern states, don’t have the history of large traditional churches, like us
    - Steve: We shouldn’t get caught up on comparing us to what mega churches do; need to focus on the positives; to present a spiritual message that resonates with all
  - Cliff: Why are younger families not going to church, gave an example of families in his neighborhood

- Rev. C: If we ask those families, most say that they are spiritual, but it is not expressed by attending institutional religion
  - Lorinda: Why do we attend church; she came to our church to deal with life stresses; weekly messages kept her motivated when she needed it most; people need to feel inspired, humbled and feed
    - Cliff: We should not hide the good works that we do, example is work camp
    - Rev. C.: What if we flipped it and 85% of the focus was placed on spiritual and only 15% on upkeep, mechanics of how the church functions
  - Herb: The 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter outlines how some churches dictate that “everything much be just so”, that’s not this church; God has sent him people (church family) during difficult times; Silver Lake provided the connection
    - Rev Jay: It is the love of Jesus Christ that provides a web of support; he is a live in our lives. Shared a recent experience with a non-church resident who lost their parent; needed a place to memorialize her life; finances were an issue; the church was offered and about 200 people attended; We ARE the church that opens doors and our heart to those in need and in times of joy; it’s possible that those attending will now associate 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational with being an accepting church, we filled a need and a void
    - Bob B.: Related the churches accepting of all to that of Baptisms performed for all, not just members
    - Beth: How do we engage those (who are not members) that attend an event such as baptism or wedding?
  - Rev. C.: We have something to offer, transformation of faith, not offered somewhere else; we need to focus of “feeding the sheep”, not the negatives we observe (low attendance...)
    - Jesus is STILL Alive; when tragedy strikes, like 9-11, we, the church, is where people turn
2. Stephen’s Ministry/Visitation: (Cliff): We have 4 new folks interested in Stephen’s Ministry, would like to have 2 more (6) for new class.
- Sandy shared concerns for a member dealing with health and family stress issues; Cliff sending out note cards (5/week) to members on the visitation list; ALL encouraged to do home visits or friendly calls
3. Silver Lake (Herb): 11 folks attended April 14 for building “sprucing”; long-term we need to address the issue of ventilation roof/ceiling; working on tentative date for another day trip; 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in Oct set for building closure for the winter with men’s Ministry
- Golf tournament to benefit Silver lake, June 5<sup>th</sup>, NEED more golfers
  - Discussion on potential fund raiser, J. Christians or envelope Sunday for sustaining/ replenishing the Herbie Knight III Fund (used for upkeep of the building at Silver Lake)
4. Confirmation Picnic: Sign up on goggle sheets; invitation extended to deacons +; parents/ siblings of the confirmands; Ellie will notify the parents (only 8 students in the class)
- Discussion on new member reception for June 3<sup>rd</sup>: Some deacons felt strongly about using the silver; will be included on sign-up sheet (goggle doc).
  - Rev. Jay noted that she reminded the confirmands that they must at least make an appearance at the new member reception as most have family plans after the service; she also encouraged the use of the silver for the reception
5. Rev. Jay announced the 10 year anniversary of Rev. Charlene Bruce’s’ ordination. Everyone applauded/congratulated Charlene.

DRAFT 5/24/18

**Next Meeting:** June 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

\*Time reverted to 7:00 pm to accommodate deacons not able to make a 6:00 start time.

Homework: Chapter 2 to continue the discussion at the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting

Rev. Jay provided closing prayer

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:36 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellie Hazelwood  
Senior Deacon