

Congregational Church of Great Cranberry Island

November 17, 2013 Meeting

Meeting Attendance

Phil Whitney, Karin Whitney, Gaile Colby, Ruth Westphal, Beverly Sanborn, Helen Bertles, Becca Powell, Tom Powell, Ingrid Gaither.

By phone: Chris Johnston and Malcolm Donald

Proceedings

President Phil Whitney called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

The meeting takes place after a morning service led by Pastor Powell and a coffee hour. Pastor Powell opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes from the previous meeting were read then motioned for approval with one correction – In the section titled Microphone Research, add the sentence “Tom Powell has the info from Everett Proffitt and will review and make recommendations.”

Treasurer’s Report

- A. Treasurer Chris Johnston shared a report that was motioned for approval and accepted by all. Please see his report for more details. Of note in the report: (1) the biggest expense by far has been parsonage renovations and mainly paid out of the investment account. (2) the handout he provided shows YTD figures and that the \$294,400 line called “investment income” was the transfer of investment account funds to the checking account to cover parsonage renovations. (3) the investment account is already recovering. (4) a recent gift of \$1,000 was received from the Gene Vance estate. (5) the line called “honorarium” includes pay to summer ministers and musicians (6) the line called “parsonage repair” includes cleaning and caretaking of the Weinrich property when the Powells stayed there.
- B. Karin Whitney asks is there a way to get more details for each line item so that members can tell what expenses belong in each category. She suggest Chris copy each check before mailing so there is a record of expenses and to help summarize expenses should a board member have questions on who and why a check was written for.
- C. The board gives permission to Treasurer Johnston to make a payment to the Maine Sea Coast Mission outreach. Tom moves, Karin seconds, all in favor.

Old Business

A. Parsonage Renovation

Jesse Jameson met recently with Jeri Spurling and other board members. Friday, Nov. 22 is the expected completion date with an open house on Saturday, Nov. 23, 9 to 11 a.m. Karin notes favorably that Jesse started out behind by almost a month due to the house moving company delay. Tom expects Wallace Moving to arrive around the first week of December. Who cleans the parsonage after construction and before the Powell’s move in? It is decided today to make it a volunteer effort, Friday night, after Jesse leaves, to eat a meal together at the Ladies Aid at 5:30 p.m. then start cleaning. Phil reports that a small ceremony was held at the parsonage to put the time capsule in the wall along with the items that were found there. It was documented by Anne Grulich and the GCI Historical Society and photographed by Bruce. Phil also reports that the renovation project totals \$284,156.

B. Stanley Cemetery

Patty Pinkham found that no deed exists for the cemetery but found deeds for the surrounding properties indicating further that no one owns the cemetery. Sue Michalski investigated the legal aspects and determined that possibly a cemetery association be created to oversee this area, as a trusteeship. It is a private cemetery so the town has no ownership. Denise McCormick confirmed this. The committee meets again on Dec. 5 at 1 p.m.

C. Church Cleaning

First, someone needs to speak to Annie about this, to let her know that a temporary cleaner may be hired. Ruth offers to do this. The group agrees today that the position should be advertised. \$25 per cleaning. Ingrid will post the ad, after Ruth speaks to Annie.

New Business

A. Snow Removal

A new snow removal contract will be made with Blair Colby. No need for Blair to shovel the parsonage, the Powell's will now do this. Blair will be asked to bill the church monthly and with details and dates.

B. How old is the parsonage?

Per Anne Grulich, possibly 1850. Phil found a news article in the Ellsworth American that was written in 1913 and mentions the hearse house being constructed.

C. Golf Cart Storage/Winter caretaking

Winter storage and maintenance is needed. Arvard no longer wishes to do this job. It is decided today to offer it to Blair, possibly as part of his snow removal contract. The secretary notebook has instructions on how to store and maintain the cart in winter. It is also decided that Blair will be asked to check the church once per week and after storms, something Arvard used to do.

D. Parrish Committee Report

(Some background on this – The Sea Coast Mission overpromised. They offered to help with payroll but they were not able to. So the parish committee had to employ the services of Bangor Payroll.)

The committee has met recently with Bangor Payroll to discuss workers comp, retirement through the UCC, and health benefits. (1) workers comp: GCI church is required by law to pay into a workers comp fund once Tom's pay reaches \$2,000. A form needs to be filled out. This is associated with our tax ID #. Treasurer Johnston will take care of this. Karin offers the tip that her workers comp at the café is handled by her local insurance agent. (2) retirement: Treasurer Johnston will contact the UCC to allow money to be routed from Bangor Payroll to the proper UCC retirement fund that handles Tom's retirement account. Susie Craig may be the contact for this within the UCC. (3) health benefits: Bangor Payroll suggest creating an internal account to fund healthcare with each church paying 1/4. It is motioned today, all in favor, that Tom and Treasurer Johnston work together to resolve these issues.

E. Parrish Account Cushion

Bangor Payroll has suggested that each church contribute \$1,000 to the account as a cushion. It is motioned today; all in favor, that Treasurer Johnston arrange this.

F. Sunday Mailboat Schedule Change

The mailboat will now have a later run on Sunday's which means that Tom would arrive too late on Islesford for church service. GCI service times are not affected. Josh Gray has been asked about the Cadillac Water Taxi. \$60 one way. The parish committee will oversee the sharing of this cost between the two churches.

G. Swanns Island

Tom is the guest minister on Swanns Island on Dec. 15. The Sunbeam will provide transportation. Islesford, GCI, and Frenchboro are invited. Open to all in the community. Tom asks for prayers for Ken Dutille, minister at Swanns, who is not well.

H. Fundraising Letter

Phil asks the group to be thinking about this. Maybe wait till next summer.

I. Pastoral Letter

Tom will be sending out a non fundraising letter to mark Advent. He plans to mail another letter around Christmas. Ruth reminds to send to our summer ministers and musicians.

J. Rust Removal

The lobby walls in the front room of the church are showing rust. What is causing it? Does it need to be addressed now? It is decided to have it painted before Christmas. The board offers \$25 per hour. And will need an estimate. Phil will talk to David Ferreira and if he is not interested, the job will be advertised.

K. Care Notes

Helen will send flowers and a card to recently injured Jane Barton from the church. Ingrid will send a card and \$25 general store gift certificate to Annie Alley.

L. Winter Church

It is decided today to meet in the Ladies Aid Building starting with the Dec. 8 service. And ask Audrey about providing music. Tiffany Tate also plays guitar.

M. Summer Musicians

Ruth reminds the group that she needs to make contact with summer musicians as early as possible and asks that any communication about this be relayed to her in Minnesota over the winter.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ingrid Gaither