

Annual Charge Conference

January 8, 2012

In attendance: Rev. Dr. Robert Knebel, Pastor Bob Sorozan, Jackie Palance, Sue Powers, Joyce Rioux, John Rioux, Jeanette Baker, Heidi Flower, Matti Verzino, Beth Provost, Shirley Paulette, Jeff Paulette, Diane Ashworth, Chris Wilson, Jill Wilson, Stuart Brown, Terry Parker, Don Titus, Jane Pallokat, Jane Workman, Don Workman, Luisa Gladu, Gary Gladu, David Corey, Vivian Brackett, Marjorie Herold, Bill Thibodeau, Ray Barker, Louise Schafferick, Susie Parker, John Hickman, Marion Hickman, Tim Hickman, Ron Baker.

12:10 - Rev. Dr. Robert Knebel declared polls for Trustees are opened for one hour. Meeting is called to order. Rev. Knebel opened the meeting with a prayer.

Jackie Palance was approved as recording secretary of the Annual Charge Conference 2012.

Rev. Dr. Robert Knebel asked what we, as PUMC, are proud of about our church. Joyce Rioux presented a video representing many different activities and functions of PUMC such as the DCF Annual Children's Christmas Party, Country Cupboard Fair, The Victorian Tea, Rally Day, Tag Sale fundraiser for the Organ Restoration Fund, the volunteers at Zion Meals for the Needy to mention a few. PUMC has many involvements within our church as well as in the community. Rev. Knebel asked if there were any additional comments on or additions to the video. One comment that was made was about The Bristol Brass and Wind Ensemble on their outstanding concerts they hold in our beautiful sanctuary. Rev. Knebel congratulated PUMC on the great and inspiring presentation and the outstanding fellowship.

There are two District Resource Days – February 4 in Cheshire 10am to 12noon and February 12 in Torrington 3 – 5pm.

District Conference – May 20

New York Annual Conference – June 6 – 9

Pastor Bob Sorozan Report – Pastor Bob is amazed at how many baptisms he has performed since he started at PUMC in July 2011. Pastor Bob made mention that he was finally getting used to issues being taken care of when need be. In his past churches if something needed to be done he was the one that ended up doing them. Not here at PUMC, everyone chips in and lends a hand. Pastor Bob commented on the many gifts in our church, thank you.

Pastor Bob is shooting for March to start having one alternative service each month.

Evangelism – going to be talked about quite a bit. Not many talk about their faith. Evangelism should be on going and shared. In the Northeast it is found hard to share your faith. There are only two Evangelist churches in the northeast. We will find ways to share our faith.

Lay Leaders – the present Lay Leaders were introduced, Susan Powers, Stewart Brown and Jill Wilson. Jill Wilson share a brief word on her trip to Haiti. UMC has great presence in Haiti.

Meals For the Needy – Susan Power spoke briefly of the participation PUMC has had in Zion Meals for the Needy. PUMC has been involved with the Meals For the Needy program since the beginning about 30 years ago. Sue asked the volunteers that were present to please stand and be recognized.

Trustees – Chris Wilson wanted to highlight that of the original \$180,000 that was borrowed from ourselves for the roof replacement there is only \$54,000 left to pay.

Staff Parish Relations – Joyce Rioux reported that 2011 was a very busy year. PUMC said goodbye to our Interim Pastor Dennis Winkleblack and greeted in our new full time pastor, Pastor Robert Sorozan. The crib nursery is now staffed with 3 paid personnel, 2 permanent employees and 1 substitute employee. There is still 1 paid position open at PUMC and that is for an Assistant Director of Music. Resumes are being accepted for this position. Pastor Bob made comment that an active church brings in quality and active people.

Finance Report – John Rioux made comment that 2012 is starting with a more than \$27,000 deficit. When asked if there is a plan to help reduce this deficit John presented to possibly again have a 13th month pledge program. This worked to help close some of the 2011 deficit. There will also be a second wave of Stewardship letters going out to those who have not responded to the first wave of letters that have gone out. John Rioux made motion to accept the budget, excluding the pastoral items. John Hickman seconded the motion. Motion carried and the adopted budget, minus pastoral items, was approved. Rev. Knebel made reference “God Will Provide” and shared a brief story of his own.

Education Committee – Shirley Paulette highlighted that usually parents bring the children to church. Two years in a row it was the children that brought the parents to the church. Currently there are 44 children enrolled.

Membership – Louise Schaffrick highlighted that 2011 started with 702 members, 181 were removed leaving a current membership of 521. There are 90 names on the “First Year” list. Three members are on the second year list, Devin Kingbury, Jonathan Moris and Gary Norton. Louise Schafferick made motion to remove these three members. Susan Powers seconded the motion. Approved to remove.

Church Council and Committee Members – Under the Church Council a new committee of the Stephen Ministries was added. Melissa Brown was added to Membership, Shirley Paulette was added to Education, Tim Hickman was added to Technology and Ericka Plourde was added to Outreach/Rethink. All new elections to council and committees were approved.

1:10pm – polls closed for Trustees elections. Four names were raised for election of the 2014 Trustees - Bill Thibodeau, John Hickman, Carol Rivard and Ray Barker with one write in, Ron Baker. Thrity-two ballots were collected, each ballot was to have 3 names selected. The results were: Carol Rivard – 29 votes, Ray Barker – 27 votes, John Hickman – 23 votes, Bill Thibodeau – 14 votes and Ron Baker – 1 vote. The elected Trustees are Carol Rivard, Ray Barker and John Hickman.

Pastoral Budget – The pastoral budget was reviewed and any questions answered. Joyce Rioux made recommendation to accept Pastoral Budget. Pastor’s budget was adopted.

Recommendation for Lay Speaker – Terry Parker and Susan Powers – Approved

Retired Clergy – Bill Barnes and Bob Rhodes

Audit – PUMC’s last audit was in 2007. It was recommended another audit be done soon.

Parsonage Report – There was a typo in the report, the bathroom floors were not retiled. The bath/shower areas were retiled. The parsonage meets the standards and is in good condition.

Safe Sanctuary – There is a current policy in place. The committee will meet and revisit the policy and add any updates if necessary.

Endowment – In 2011 the endowment was not spent. The interest only was used. This is the same plan for year 2012.

1:20pm – Rev. Dr. Robert Knebel called the charge conference closed. Rev. Knebel closed with well wishes to PUMC, a hymn and a prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie Palance

2012 Annual Conference Secretary