

Parish Council Minutes – April 27, 2020

Moderator Bruce Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. In attendance on Zoom: Bruce Weaver, Rev. Nancy Rottman, Chuck Cotting, Debbie Cotting, Katherine Decker, Scott DeSantis, Jill DiGiorgio, Linda Ladd, Jeff Law, Jim Marshall, AnnMarie Pendola, and Larainne Wilson. Katherine offered the meditation. Minutes from 3/30/2020 were approved with unanimous consent.

Pastor Report: Rev. Nancy Rottman provided updates on the state of the church, virtual worship and Zoom gatherings, congregational care, and looking ahead to plans for eventual reopening. Our virtual worship services will continue to adapt the “Heart of the Matter” series, which comes from Dr. Marcia McFee and her Worship Design Studio. Due to the significant amount of time Nancy needs each week to produce and edit our worship videos, we have shifted to an earlier deadline in the week to try and make the process more efficient for me. We have reached over 100 subscribers to our YouTube channel, which allowed us to obtain a custom URL: www.YouTube.com/c/centrecongregationalchurch/.

Rev Nancy moderates the weekly worship video during its premiere at 10am on Sundays, followed by the Zoom Coffee Hour at 11am which she co-hosts with Larainne. Two Zoom gatherings are also being offering during the week, a Midweek Prayer and Support on Wednesdays at 4pm, and an Adult Discussion Group on Thursdays at 3pm. Susan and Barbara continue to monitor phone and email, as well as producing Tower Notes and sending out all-church communications.

Financial Reports: Treasurer Jeff Law provided Council with an update regarding the potential financial impact presented with the current pandemic.

Education: Larainne Wilson reported on the various Zoom offerings being held throughout the week. There is a Parent Support Group on Thursdays at 7pm, Under the Tent on Sundays at 4pm for children up to Grade 4, and Middle School Youth Group on Sundays at 5pm. Plans are being made for celebration Sunday in June and there is ongoing discussion about how to support our high school seniors.

Outreach: Linda Ladd reported on the status of Haven from Hunger and the Green Team. Haven from Hunger has hired staff to work so Centre Church will not send volunteers for volunteer days, instead M & O is brainstorming ways to financially support Haven from Hunger. The planned Centre Church book group on “Cathedral on Fire: Climate Crisis Handbook for Churches” has been replaced by an online Book Discussion hosted by the UCC starting on April 30.

Diaconate: AnnMarie Pendola reported that the Deacons continue to assist with contacting church members who are on the Congregation Care List. The Deacons will try to meet sometime in May to discuss the potential ushering schedule, next steps on the audio upgrade, and having an appraisal done on the Church’s silver.

Stewardship: Debbie Cotting gave an update on the status of pledges and what are the next steps to be taken.

Finance: Chuck Cotting reported on the maintenance projects that Scott has been working on, including the tool and equipment closet, and removal of broken ping-pong table and piano. Chuck has also been working on the buildings contents project as part

of the insurance evaluations. The parking lot behind the Library, and the roadway/parking spaces between the Library and Chapel are being repaved by the Town of Lynnfield. The Flea Market/Bake Sale planned for May and the Golf Tournament planned for June are on hold.

300th Banquet and activities: There was a discussion about how we will proceed with the 300th celebration.

Old/New Business: The 300th t-shirts are in and available for purchase.

There being no further business, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Decker, Recording Secretary

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 @ 7pm

Meditation – Lisa Gerbick