

## Parish Council Minutes - April 28, 2015

In attendance: Carrie Pericola, Jill DiGiorgio, Jeff Law, Barbara Langill, Kathi Martin, Margaret Waugh, Bruce Weaver, Chuck Cotting, Debbie Cotting, Dotty Whittier, and Rev. Dennis Bailey. Moderator, Bruce Weaver convened the meeting at 7:05 PM. Margaret Waugh offered the meditation. Council approved the minutes of the March 31, 2015 meeting.

Pastor Report: Rev. Bailey informed Council that Heifer International has put out a call for assistance in response to the earthquake in Nepal. He recommended taking a special offering for Heifer on May 3 using the "Mission Offering" envelopes. Council approved the special offering and passed a motion to match the offering using funds from the Outreach budget in an amount not to exceed \$1500.00. Rev. Bailey will attend the Metropolitan Boston Association Spring Meeting on May 3 and invited anyone interested in attending to join him. He will attend the installation of new Associate Minister, Judy Proctor, in North Reading, MA on May 17. Rev. Bailey reviewed pastoral concerns and his worship activities during the month of April. He noted that about 40 people attended the Easter Sunrise Service. Rev. Bailey outlined his vacation schedule and noted that he plans to attend the United Church of Christ General Synod in Cleveland, Ohio from June 25-30. He is working with Diaconate to find preachers for the Sundays he will be away. Rev. Bailey highlighted the following upcoming events: Crafters on the Common and Flea Market on the church lawn on May 16 which is also Geraniumfest and Field Day and Firefighters Sunday on June 7, 8:30 AM at the Center Fire Station.

Financial Report: Treasurer, Jeff Law reviewed financial data as of March 31, 2015. Our overall loss in the Operating Fund is \$75,135.48. This number is slightly worse than last year, but \$28,112.01 better than budget. Our income year-to-date is \$17,385.54 better than last year and \$25,664.72 better than budget, thanks to the Supplemental Pledge Drive which was not budgeted. The Supplemental Drive raised \$33,780 as of 3/31/15. The income variance versus budget will grow because the Verizon project has stalled, and they have not begun paying us. Expenses are \$18,328.99 worse than last year, but \$2447.30 better than budget. Snow plowing is \$1343 worse than budget and is expected to end the year about \$2000 worse than budget. Jeff reviewed Fund Balances, and Council voted to move the \$1000 in the Brad Holt Memorial Fund to Capital Maintenance. Jeff projects that we will end FY 15 with an overall loss in the Operating Fund of approximately \$53,000. He expects expenses to end the year about as budgeted and income to end the year about \$13,000 better than budget. Jeff noted that the Supplemental Pledge drive was not budgeted, and we did not receive anticipated income from Verizon. Jeff, Bruce Weaver, and Jim Marshall will meet to review contracts associated with implementing electronic giving.

Christian Education: Barbara Langill reported that Carrie Pericola attended Godly Play training from April 10-12. She returned with helpful information for our Godly Play classroom. Jill DiGiorgio will attend a Godly Play training session on May 2. The Christian Education team is considering the possibility of splitting the group into 2 classes next year. The team is investigating the cost of setting up a second classroom. Children in grades 5 and up will remain in worship on May 3 to help lead the service. They will finish the Heifer Cornerstones. Participants of the Heifer Mission trip will share a part of the worship service from their last night in Arkansas. There were 12 Mission Trip participants, and they will share their experiences at the Share Holder's Dinner on May 8 at 6 PM. Education Ministries is planning a Lego party on Sunday, May 3 from 4-6 PM. The event is open to all ages, and pizza, drinks, and dessert will be served. The Youth Groups enjoyed "Grog" night on April 26. The last Youth Group meeting for the year is scheduled for May 17; a trip to Canobie Lake Park is planned. Education Ministries voted Jill DiGiorgio as Co-Chair for the remainder of the year. They decided that the title for the new part-time position should be "Director of Faith Formation." Barbara Langill, Kathi Martin, and Carrie Pericola will attend the NEAUCE conference at Craigville on May 5-7.

Education: Kathi Martin circulated the job posting for the Director of Faith Formation. Jill DiGiorgio noted that the group will advertise the position on several websites including MAUCC, Indeed, and Idealist, and they will send the posting to area theological schools. They will form a committee to conduct initial interviews. Kathi reported that the church will host Christian Educator certification classes on 3 Saturdays next year.

Membership: Dotty Whittier reported that plans are in place for the flea market and bake sale on May 16. The Spring Lobster Roll sale is scheduled for May 31. The price remains \$10.00/roll. Membership is exploring the idea of holding the Trivia Night and Silent Auction offsite so we can open it up to the public. Membership plans to obtain lists of recent real estate transactions and send letters to new residents, giving them information about our church. The Membership team is discussing several possibilities for fellowship events for summer and fall.

Diaconate: Margaret Waugh reported that approximately 50 people attended the Maundy Thursday service. Diaconate is discussing the placement of the choir during the Maundy Thursday service because some feel that having the choir move from the front pews to the chancel steps in front of the table disrupts the somber mood of the service. The Easter Sunday cantata was well-received; 211 people attended. Children attended the entire service on Easter and were given coloring books and activities provided by the CE committee. Deacons participated in two baptisms on 4/19. They have utilized information from the Time and Talent survey to enlist Scripture Readers and a new usher. Sunday worship will move to the Chapel on Father's Day, June 21. Diaconate will discuss the time of the summer services – either 9 or 10 AM. Diaconate is working with Rev. Bailey to arrange for worship leaders during his vacation time.

Stewardship: Carrie Pericola stated that 75 pledges have been received, and they total \$154,860.00. There are 31 pledges still outstanding – people who pledged this year, but have not returned a pledge card for next year. Carrie informed Council that her term on Stewardship is ending in September, and she will not be able to accept another term.

Finance: Chuck Cotting reported that the septic systems were pumped on 4/22. Scott Desantis replaced the exhaust fan in the basement Ladies' Room. Metro Swift submitted a proposal to replace 12 feet of leaking sprinkler piping in the basement at a cost of \$583.59. The work will be completed soon. Our landscaping contract with Mystic Landscaping has been renewed with no price increase. A rock was thrown through a chapel window. The glass has been replaced at a cost of \$300.00. The Genealogy Society is scheduled to use Todd Hall on May 16. If bad weather forces Crafters on the Common and the Flea Market indoors, the Genealogy group will meet in the Chapel and have lunch in the Library. . The Janice Miller Dance Company has signed up to use Todd Hall for dance classes starting in September. The insurance company approved our claim for ice and water damage. The total claim was \$6988.97, minus the \$2500 deductible, for a net claim of \$4488.97. Recoverable depreciation is \$633.59 for a final total of \$5122.56. Joe Hill Construction will install new gutters and fascia board, and Scott Desantis will handle interior repairs and painting. Work will begin soon. Verizon Wireless appears to be showing renewed interest in installing a cell tower in the steeple.

"Real Good Church Book" Discussion: Council chose June 10 as the date to hold a book discussion and brainstorming session based on the book "Real Good Church."

Fundraising: Council discussed details of Crafters on the Common and Flea Market on the church lawn to be held on May 16. Council agreed to hold the Yankee Candle Fundraiser in the fall. Council briefly discussed the possibility of holding a "Shredding Day" when a shredding company would shred documents and the church could charge a nominal fee.

Officers and Team Leaders: Bruce Weaver suggested that we begin thinking about people who may be interested in assuming various leadership positions. We know that we need a Vice Moderator and Ministry Team Leaders for Stewardship and Outreach.

Council decided to hold the Preliminary Budget Meeting after the service on June 7, 2015. The congregation will be asked to approve the preliminary budget and extend the terms of Officers and Ministry Team Chairs and members until the Annual Meeting in September.

There being no further business, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM. Rev. Bailey led a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary

**Next Meeting: May 27, 2015    Meditation: Bruce Weaver**