

## Parish Council Minutes

August 22, 2012

In attendance: Bruce Weaver, Carrie Pericola, Jeff Law, Sandi Watson, Dotty Whittier, Chuck Cotting, Linda Ladd, Barbara Langill, Jim Marshall, Rev. Dennis Bailey, and Debbie Cotting.

Moderator, Bruce Weaver, convened the meeting at 7:10 PM and offered the meditation.

Council approved the minutes of the June 5<sup>th</sup> Council meeting and the special meeting of the congregation held on June 17.

Pastor's Report: Rev. Bailey reviewed his activities during June, July, and the first few weeks of August. Council congratulated him for being named Rotary Citizen of the Year.

Financial Reports: Jeff Law reviewed the income and expense actual numbers for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012. Jeff noted that despite significant savings in actual expenses vs. budget, the overall loss in the Operating Fund was \$15,587.48. Income was \$20,557.60 less than the budget mainly due to significantly lower receipts of pledges made during this period. The mild winter resulted in savings in snow removal (\$4,815), Gas and Oil (\$9,050.36), and electricity (\$1,165.50). Jeff reviewed the various fund balances noting which ones saw increases and which showed decreases. Council voted to approve a transfer of \$1,015 from the Memorials Fund to the Capital Maintenance Fund.

Budget Sub-Committee Report: Council reviewed the draft budget for Fiscal Year 2013. The draft budget reflects no increase in staff salaries, a 5% increase in medical and dental insurance, and a 5% increase in insurance premiums. Gas and Oil costs are projected to rise by 10%. Overall, expenses are budgeted to increase by \$2,667.43 over last year's actual. Jim Marshall noted that most pledges stayed level with last year-some are lower, and a few increased. Jeff commented that pledges don't cover the salaries and benefits of church staff. Council also noted that because not all families contribute to MBA dues, the church budget absorbs nearly \$3,900.00. Income in the draft budget is projected to increase by \$9,304.85 which, coupled with the expense increase of \$2,667.43, will result in a projected deficit of \$8,950.06. Council will continue to review the budget. At the next Council meeting on Sept. 25, Council will vote on the budget to be presented at Annual Meeting on Sunday, Sept. 30.

Christian Education Report: Barbara Langill reported that Church School will resume on September 9, and Lisa Gerbick has agreed to staff the Nursery again this year. C.E. hopes to offer a class for 3-5 year olds this year. They will send letters to families of children in this age group inviting them to join the class. Rotation Sensation will be offered to children in grades 1-8. Youth Group News: The Middle School Group spent the night at the church; then traveled to NH for a Ziplining Adventure. On Aug. 6, the group headed to Seabrook, NH for a day at the beach hosted by the Miller family. Youth Groups will begin on Sept. 23. The High School group will join youth from churches in Salem, Methuen, and Middleton for joint activities 4-6 times during the year. Five youth and five adults participated in the Pen Pal program over the summer. They will meet at an ice cream social this fall. Fourteen children attended Vacation Bible School, led by Emily Couillard and a host of volunteers. Twenty volunteers spent a week of August 12 in Joplin, Missouri helping the rebuilding efforts there. They will share their stories at the Shareholder dinner on Sept. 16. Rev. Bailey, Kathi Martin, and Barbara Langill will lead this year's confirmation program. They met over the summer to review and revise the program, and they're looking forward to working with this year's 9<sup>th</sup> grade class.

Membership: Dotty Whittier reported that 21 people have signed up for the Essex River Cruise on Sept. 9; 38 people are needed to break even. The cost per person is \$18.00. After the cruise, we will gather at Woodman's to enjoy dinner and Peking and the Mystics.

Diaconate: Linda Ladd noted that summer services in the chapel have been well-attended, and the air conditioning is working well. She reviewed several special events that have taken place over the past few months, including baptisms, renewing of vows, and hosting a neutral pulpit. On Sept. 9, services will resume in the Sanctuary.

Stewardship: Carrie Pericola reported that she and Dennis attended a Mass. UCC Conference on Stewardship entitled, "Being a Generous Church Together." Carrie presented an outline of key points from the conference. Carrie will call three people who have pledged in the past, but who have not yet submitted a pledge for this year.

Finance: Chuck Cotting reported on the status of various property maintenance projects, including the Walsh Memorial Performance Platform. Super Soccer Stars has booked Richards Hall for their fall classes which run from Sept. through Dec.

Fundraiser Update: The Yankee Candle fundraiser will run from 9/23-10/14. There will be a golf outing at Sagamore Springs on Friday, Sept. 28 at 12:30 PM.

New Business: Bruce circulated a letter from the UCC Insurance Board which outlined a list of recommended financial controls. Council will review the list and discuss how we measure up at our next meeting. A Council sub-committee will meet to draft a letter to people who haven't paid MBA dues, and the Membership Commission will be reviewing the Membership Rolls.

Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 PM. Dennis led a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 25. Meditation by Dotty Whittier**

**Annual Meeting: Sunday, September 30 following worship**