

Parish Council Minutes - February 25, 2014

In attendance: Bruce Weaver, Jim Marshall, Carrie Pericola, Margaret Waugh, Chuck Cotting, Jeff Law, Debbie Cotting, and Rev. Dennis Bailey.

Moderator, Bruce Weaver convened the meeting at 7:05 P.M., and Margaret Waugh offered the meditation. Council approved the minutes of the January 28, 2014 meeting.

Pastor Report: Rev. Bailey reviewed pastoral concerns and his worship-related activities over the past month. He officiated at two funerals since the last Council meeting. He also met with the Lynnfield Clergy Association, taught a Confirmation Class on Jesus, and went tubing with the youth group. Rev. Bailey will officiate at a wedding on 3/14/14. Phil and Cheryl Fisher, Christopher, Sheila, and Pamela Van Twuyer were received as members on 2/16/14. Rev. Bailey will be on vacation from March 7-14. On March 9, the Stewardship Committee, with assistance from the Deacons, will lead worship and offer the sermon. The Ash Wednesday service is scheduled for March 5, at 7:30 P.M. in the chapel. Caitlin Timmons will play since Doug Hodgkins is unavailable.

Treasurer's Report: Jeff Law reviewed financial data as of 1/31/14. Our overall loss in the Operating Fund is \$40,106.28 which is \$28,369.29 worse than last year, but \$18,239.56 better than budget. Income to date is \$33,716.89 worse than last year, but \$10,572.81 better than budget. Jeff noted that the main difference between this year and last is that last year we had a Supplemental Pledge Drive which had raised \$27,700 at this point in the year. We are doing well compared to budget because we received a large undesignated contribution in December. Expenses are \$5347.60 better than last year and \$7666.75 better than budget. Staff expenses, MBA dues, Property expenses, and Fundraiser expenses were all lower than expected. Jeff cautioned that we need to maintain good expense management and continue fundraisers; we are 58% through the fiscal year and only at 35% of our fundraising goal.

Christian Education: Council reviewed the written report submitted by Barbara Langill. All Church School children will attend worship on 3/2. Rotation workshops are scheduled for 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, and 3/30. The children will bake Heifer muffins on 3/16, 3/23, and 3/30. The youth collected \$202.00 from the Souper Bowl of Caring. The donations were sent to Haven From Hunger. Students in grades 10-12 will go to City Reach in Boston on March 7-8. The Youth Group schedule for Feb.-May is being revised. The new schedule will be posted on the church website and sent home. On March 2, the Confirmands will attend an 8:30 A.M. class on communion led by Linda Ladd. They will assist with serving communion during the 10:00 A.M. service. Following the service, they will meet with Rev. Bailey and their mentors. The Confirmation Retreat is scheduled for March 7-8 at Grotonwood. Jeff Langill and Kathi Martin will chaperone.

Membership: Council reviewed the written report submitted by Dotty Whittier. Trivia/Silent Auction night is scheduled for Feb. 28. Jason Cotting will emcee Trivia, and volunteers will provide appetizers, sandwiches, and desserts. There is an extensive list of Silent Auction items. So far, nearly 70 people have signed up to attend. Membership is working on a "Cousins Program" where a new member is paired with a longer term member who would keep in touch with the new member, invite them to events, and generally help to make them feel welcome and included. Membership is considering future fellowship and fund-raising events.

Diaconate: Margaret Waugh reported that the Feb. 9th Deacons' Breakfast raised \$256.00 for the organ fund. The Solid State electronics plug on the organ was repaired on Feb. 7. The next breakfast is scheduled for Easter Sunday between the Sunrise Service and the 10:00 A.M. service. Margaret, along with Rev. Bailey and Bruce Weaver, interviewed a Supply Minister candidate on Feb. 12. She met with Bruce and the Tower Day Board to discuss replacing the Tower Day Director who

is leaving after the school year. The Deacons assisted with the induction of new members on Feb. 16. Margaret will assist Linda Ladd in teaching the Confirmands about preparing and serving Communion on March 2. Palms have been ordered for Palm Sunday. Two Deacons will assist at the Ash Wednesday service on March 5.

Stewardship: Carrie Pericola reported that the annual Stewardship Campaign will kick off on Sunday, March 2. This year's theme is "Uniting Generations Through Love." The Stewardship Committee will lead worship on March 9. The Scripture readings, children's message, and music will all relate to the Stewardship theme. The campaign will culminate on April 6 when pledge cards will be returned; a luncheon will follow the service. During the campaign, several people have agreed to share their stories as part of Stewardship time on Sunday mornings. Carrie asked Council for their thoughts on sending individual pledge packets to all young adults, (for example, confirmed high school and college students) living with their families. Stewardship did send packets to those folks last year, and they felt the results did not justify the extra work and cost involved. Council agreed that it wasn't necessary to send packets to those young adults, but pledge packets will be given to the Confirmands to emphasize the importance of Stewardship.

Finance: Chuck Cotting informed Council that he plans to dispose of fluorescent bulbs when the town has its Hazardous Waste Disposal Day. Items still pending are the repair to the sink in the pastor's bathroom and the installation of a new thermostat in the Sanctuary. The current thermostat will be moved to the Fireside Room. The post for the truck gate to the play yard has failed and will be replaced. Chuck will explore the possibility of power washing the building to clean it up until it can be painted. He has one bid for roof replacement and is awaiting bids from three other contractors. He will inform T-Mobile about our plans to re-roof.

Tower Day School Director Search: Bruce reported that a Search Committee is in place. Members of the committee are: Bruce Weaver, Rev. Dennis Bailey, Debbie Cotting, and Tower Day Board members Jeff Law, Margaret Waugh, Carrie Pericola, Kathi Martin, and Kathy Dickson (Tower Day teacher.) The committee will meet on March 3 to begin their work.

Supply Pastor: Bruce, Margaret, and Rev. Bailey interviewed Rev. Jamie Howard and recommended to Council that she be hired as Supply Pastor while Rev. Bailey is on sabbatical. Council reviewed her resume and agreed that she is an excellent candidate for the position. A motion was made and seconded to offer the Supply Pastor position to Rev. Jamie Howard from June 1 to September 14, 2014 at a salary not to exceed \$15,000. The motion passed unanimously.

Fundraising: Carrie Pericola will explore the possibility of holding a "Paint Party." There will be a fundraiser held in conjunction with Geraniumfest. Membership and Council are discussing ideas.

New Business: Jeff Law noted that the Outreach Budget has a balance of \$3418.00 designated for Heifer and a balance of \$9801.58 in unallocated funds. Since \$5000.00 is needed to purchase an Ark, Council voted unanimously to transfer \$1582.00 from Outreach unallocated funds to the Heifer line item in order to reach the \$5000.00 contribution needed for an Ark.

There being no further business, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 P.M. Rev. Bailey led a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 25, 2014. Meditation: Dotty Whittier