

## Parish Council Minutes

February 26, 2018

Moderator, Bruce Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. In attendance: Bruce Weaver, Rev. Nancy Rottman, Laraine Wilson, Jill DiGiorgio, Debbie Cotting, Linda Ladd, Chuck Cotting, Scott DeSantis, Annmarie Pendola, John Sievers, and Jeff Law. Debbie Cotting offered the meditation. Council approved the minutes from the January 10, 2018 meeting.

Pastor Report: Rev. Nancy Rottman thanked Barbara Langill for her willingness to staff the office in Susan's absence. Members of the congregation are volunteering to answer the office phone as needed. Nancy and Laraine meet weekly, and Nancy will meet with Doug Hodgkins in early March to plan Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter services. Nancy continues to meet with the Lynnfield Clergy Group; their current focus is church safety. Nancy plans to invite several local clergy to participate in her installation, scheduled for Sunday, April 22 at 3 P.M. She is working with local clergy to develop a system to track aid to individuals and families who request assistance. Nancy meets with Ministry Teams, and she is working with the Care Team to determine a regular meeting day and time each month. The new member luncheon on Jan. 28 was well-attended. Nine new members joined the church on Feb. 11. More folks are expected to become members on Pentecost Sunday, May 20. There was one baptism in February and two others are expected in the coming months. Nancy meets with and supports the Adult Bible Study Group which meets on Thursday afternoons at 1 P.M. The group is actively seeking new participants. Nancy is offering a weekly Lenten worship service inspired by a series called Sensing the Gospels by Matt Skinner of Luther Seminary. Twenty-four people attended the Ash Wednesday service. She continues to be in touch with folks needing pastoral care. Nancy is in contact with Patty King from Sunrise Assisted Living regarding a potential new resident who would like to worship at Centre church, but requires transportation. Nancy and Patty are discussing possibilities for digital access or an occasional Sunday afternoon worship service at Sunrise, perhaps in rotation with other protestant clergy. On March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Senior Center, Nancy will attend training for community leaders put on by GLSS with the hope of Lynnfield becoming a Dementia Friendly Community. She is taking an on-line continuing education program called Prepare-Enrich which she will use for conversations with couples preparing for marriage. Nancy, Debbie (and Chuck) have spent many hours putting together the Stewardship Campaign which began on Feb. 25. Nancy's installation as pastor of CCC will be held on Sunday, April 22 at 3 P.M. Invited guests will include the MBA, local clergy, and members of the community. A reception will follow the service. Nancy has accepted a spot on the Search Committee for the next Minister for Members in Discernment. Her participation will be via video teleconferencing and one trip to Cleveland for in-person interviews. Nancy will be away from April 5-8. She will ask Glenn Mortimer to cover pastoral emergencies. Andrew Harris, a Member in Discernment in the Northeast Association and Student Minister for Youth Ministry at Hancock UCC in Lexington, will lead worship and preach on April 8.

Financial Report: Treasurer, Jeff Law reviewed preliminary financial data as of 1/31/18. Jeff noted that our overall loss in the Operating Fund year-to-date is \$9980.10 - \$6448.31 better than last year and \$20,738.23 better than budget. Income y-t-d is \$9795.31 worse than last year, but \$15,935.46 better than budget. Expenses are \$16,243.62 better than last year and \$4802.76 better than budget. Jeff reported that the UCC recommends adopting a policy for the Minister's Discretionary Fund. If those funds are not properly established and documented, the minister can incur additional tax liability and donations to the fund will not be considered tax-deductible contributions. Jeff presented a draft policy which Council voted to accept.

Education: Laraine reported that church school numbers are holding steady; volunteers are needed for Transition and Nursery. Laraine and Nancy will attend Super Saturday on Mar. 17 in Wilbraham. Laraine will assist with the Faith Formation session. Faith Formation is hosting the Christian Educators training on Mar. 3. Giv2 held a successful drive to benefit Mission of Deeds. Jill plans to survey young families to determine their preferred activities and best times to meet. Jill is in contact with Chuck regarding First Aid/CPR/AED instruction.

Outreach: Linda Ladd reported that volunteers continue to prepare and serve meals at Haven From Hunger. Today, the group delivered 272.7 pounds of food to HFH, thanks to donations from church members and a large donation of food from a group who rented Richards Hall for a birthday party. Faith Formation is supporting Heifer through the sale of muffins and the "Fill the Ark" calendars and coin banks given to families. Stamp Out Hunger day is May 12; postal workers collect food which will be given to Citizen's Inn/Haven From Hunger. Laraine and the Giv2 group delivered a carload of blankets, sheets, and kitchenware (including Rachel Ray bakeware obtained with Shaw's Stamps) to Mission of Deeds. In March, Outreach will collect socks and underwear for City Reach. A group of women attended "Unveiled" at Stoneham Theatre on 2/11. Nancy noted that May 6 is City Mission Sunday. Rev. June Cooper will preach on that day.

Membership: John Sievers reported that Trivia Night/Silent Auction raised approximately \$7100. Membership plans to hold a Flea Market on May 12. The team is discussing other events including the sale of Lobster Rolls. The sale of Shopping Cards has raised about \$500 so far.

Diaconate: Annmarie Pendola reviewed recent Diaconate activities. There were 4 funerals/memorial services in Jan. and a baptism in Feb. Deacons are finalizing plans for Maundy Thursday, Palm Sunday, and Easter.

Stewardship: Debbie Cotting reported that the Stewardship Campaign began on Feb. 25 and will run until March 18 – Commitment Sunday. Debbie and Nancy are discussing ways to highlight stewardship year-round; focusing on all the ways we use our time, talent, and financial resources to be stewards.

Finance: Chuck Cotting reported that an insurance claim has been submitted to cover the cost of repairing damage for ice dams. When all the work is completed, he will apply for the \$816 depreciation hold-back. Chuck is checking with the electrician to schedule adding pot lights in the chancel. Pew cushions have been installed in the chapel. Chuck is working with Council members to determine who should be trained in the use of the AED and to coordinate possible CPR training. Chuck will work with a sub-committee to develop an evacuation plan. He presented some draft designs, based on Council suggestions, for a new church sign facing Summer St. Council agreed on one of the 3 designs, but recommended additional modifications which Chuck will convey to Markarian Sign to obtain a new draft.

Old Business: Bruce will establish a sub-committee to discuss MBA dues.

New Business: Chuck presented some information about color copiers and folding machines. He will get more detailed cost estimates for future discussion.

There being no further business, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary Pro-tem.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 3**

**Meditation: Jill DiGiorgio**