Parish Council Minutes – June 22, 2020

Moderator Bruce Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:07 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. Linda offered the meditation. Minutes from 5/26/2020 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. Sunday, June 28 was a celebration on our ONA 15th Anniversary. Our summer theme will be Sacred Earth, Sacred Work. We will also have Parking Lot Communion worship on July 12 and August 2. Virtual Worship will continue to premiere on YouTube at 9am, followed by Coffee Hour via Zoom at 9:30am. There continues to be two weekly Zoom gatherings for adults, Midweek Prayer and Support and Adult Discussion Group. Nancy participated in a Virtual Vigil for George Floyd with Lynnfield for Love and Selectman Chris Barrett on June 4, as well as the town Rally and Protest for Black Lives Matter. Moving forward we would like to work on becoming more visible as a welcoming community.

Financial Reports: Treasurer Jeff Law provided Council with an update regarding the potential financial impact presented with the current pandemic. Jim Marshall provided an update on pledges, which are down slightly.

Education: Larainne Wilson reported that the Faith Formation Team will be delivering Church-To-Go boxes to church school families. These boxes will be filled with lessons and activities for the summer that are based on the Whole People of God Curriculum. Jill and Larainne have continued to lead Zoom offerings throughout the week. There is a Parent Support Group on Thursdays at 7:30pm, and Under the Tent on Sundays at 4pm for children up to Grade 4. The next FFMT meeting is tentatively set for July 14.

Outreach: Linda Ladd reported that the Outreach Ministry Team met via Zoom on 5/27/2020. They continue to match donations by church members to organizations hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. These organizations include the Chelsea Collaborative, Project Bread, Bread & Roses, My Brother's Table, Citizens Inn, Massachusetts General Hospital, Feeding America, and the Greater Boston Food Bank. M&O also made a donation to Heifer in addition to the money raised throughout the year from the Living Gift Market in Advent, Heifer muffins during Lent, and filling the goat tube with quarters. Members of the team presented the responsive reading on Creation Care during the Celebration Sunday Worship service.

Diaconate: AnnMarie Pendola reported that the Deacons continue to assist with contacting church members who are on the Congregation Care List. They are meeting on June 25 to discuss preparations for Communion Sunday Services, preparations/changes for future in person services, Congregational care concerns and updates, and suggestions for potential events for next year.

Stewardship: Debbie Cotting gave an update on the status of pledges and that a reminder notices were sent out to some folks with outstanding pledges.

Finance: Chuck Cotting reported that the building contents project for the insurance evaluation was completed and that the Church offices reopened on May 26 on the Summer schedule. Our custodian Jose is planning to return full time on Monday, July 27. Scott has begun work on "updating" Tower Day rooms 12 and 21.

Sanctuary and Other Flood Repairs:

Chuck reported on the events of Saturday, May 30 when a sprinkler head in the attic over the Sanctuary and Balcony let go, resulting in flood damage to the Sanctuary, Balcony, Narthex, Fireside Room, Kitchen and Richards Hall. There was a discussion regarding the damage done and the repairs needed as a result of the flood. Parish Council would like to thank Chuck Cotting and Scott DeSantis for all the work they have put into the repairs from the flood.

More detailed descriptions are included in the attached report.

Old/New Business: Tower Day is making plans for reopening. There was also a discussion regarding requests by outside groups to use our space.

There being no further business, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Decker, Recording Secretary

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 @ 7pm

Meditation – Jeff Law