

Parish Council Minutes

June 26, 2014

In attendance: Bruce Weaver, Barbara Langill, Dotty Whittier, Carrie Pericola, Jim Marshall, Jeff Law, Margaret Waugh, Chuck Cotting, Debbie Cotting, and Rev. Jamie Howard.

Moderator Bruce Weaver convened the meeting at 7:05 P.M., and Barbara Langill offered the meditation.

Council approved the minutes of the 5/27/14 meeting.

Pastor Report: Rev. Howard reported on her activities for the month of June. She conducted a large funeral and has met with the Lynnfield Clergy Association. She noted that the Methodist Church in Wakefield (Rev. Glenn Mortimer) is celebrating an anniversary in 2015. Their mission focus for the anniversary celebration is mental health/illness, and they welcome participation by other churches in some of the community-oriented events. Rev. Howard will connect them with members of the National Alliance for Mental Illness and also gather information to give to Rev. Bailey when he returns from sabbatical. Rev. Howard has been making pastoral visits to hospitals, nursing homes, and private homes. She has developed a set of visiting cards so that she will have information for Rev. Bailey. Rev. Howard reviewed a list of people to hold in our prayers.

Financial Reports: Treasurer Jeff Law reviewed financial data through May 31, 2014. Our overall loss in the operating fund year-to-date is \$99,336.15 which is \$54,021.96 worse than last year and \$11,183.97 worse than budget. Income year-to-date is \$46,472.41 worse than last year and \$9612.28 worse than budget. Factors driving this lower income include the lack of a supplemental pledge drive this year, lower pledge income, and lower pre-paid pledges. Pledge income fell dramatically in May, but Financial Secretary Jim Marshall noted that pledge income seems to be picking up in June. Expenses are \$7549.55 worse than last year and \$1571.69 worse than budget, mostly due to the timing of some quarterly expenses (just over \$6000) which normally occur in June. The expense budget will normalize in June; overall expenses look good. Jeff noted that we need to watch pledge income and other offerings and send reminders to people who are not up-to-date on their pledges. Jim Marshall reported that more FY2015 pledges have been received. So far, we have 104 pledges totaling \$206,028. There are 14 outstanding pledges (people who pledged last year, but haven't yet this year) for a total of \$12,480. And, donations totaling \$5500 were received this month for the Raise the Roof campaign.

Christian Education: Barbara Langill reported that Christian Education group decided to have a Kids' Summer Sunday Camp for children 4 and up. The stage in Todd Hall is set up with a safari theme, and families are asked to take turns leading the camp with materials provided by Barbara. Child care for babies and toddlers is also available. There will not be children's programs or child care on the 4th of July weekend or Labor Day weekend. The youth groups are planning a beach day at the Miller's. There are 10 youth and 5 adults going on the mission trip to Orland, ME., and 10 people are signed up for the August Habitat mission project.

Membership: Dotty Whittier reported that the lobster rolls raised \$425 for Centre Church. The Salem Trolley Ride was a great fellowship event; 28 people participated. The "Cousins Cards" have been ordered and will be kept in the Membership mailbox so they will be readily available to give to newcomers. Membership had a year-end dinner at Dotty's house, and Rev. Howard stopped by before heading to the Deacons' meeting. Membership has discussed ways to help with the proposed Church Fair on 10/18, a possible wine-tasting party on 11/1, and Trivia Night in the first quarter of 2015.

Diaconate: Margaret Waugh noted that worship services have been going well under the direction of Rev. Howard. The 9 A.M. Chapel services began on June 15, and on June 22, 50 people were in attendance. Noel Smith is providing music while Doug Hodgkins is out on medical leave. Katherine Decker will provide the music on July 6 because Noel is unavailable that day. Margaret reported that the church will be receiving a memorial contribution to be used to purchase a new television for the Fireside Room.

Stewardship: Carrie Pericola reported that thank you notes to people who pledged have been written, and reminder phone calls have been made to people who pledged last year, but haven't done so yet this year. The Stewardship group is exploring theme ideas for the next campaign. Carrie will research on-line giving through Vanco.

Finance: Chuck Cotting reported on maintenance projects. He and Phil Johnson are in the process of re-setting the memorial bricks. The cement around the window well has been replaced, and the granite blocks have been re-set. The custodian has re-stained some pew caps in the sanctuary, and he will paint some areas of Tower Day room 13. Glenn Pyburn still plans to place some boulders near the Tower Day fence. The roof project is scheduled to begin on July 7, weather permitting.

Tower Day School: Bruce Weaver informed Council that the new Tower Day Director, Leah O'Brien, is on board. She will be in the office periodically over the summer to check mail and telephone messages.

New Business: Barbara will put a notice in Tower Notes to recruit people to work on the proposed church fair on 10/18. Lola Leggett is donating a piano which may be used to replace the choir room piano.

There being no further business, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 P.M. Rev. Howard led a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary

Next Meeting: August 26, 2014