

## Parish Council Minutes – March 2, 2020

Moderator Bruce Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. In attendance: Bruce Weaver, Rev. Nancy Rottman, Chuck Cotting, Debbie Cotting, Katherine Decker, Scott DeSantis, Jill DiGiorgio, Lisa Gerbick, Linda Ladd, Jeff Law, Jim Marshall, and Larainne Wilson. Debbie offered the meditation. Minutes from 1/27/2020 were approved with unanimous consent.

Pastor Report: Rev. Nancy Rottman reported that she will be attending Youth Mental Health First Aid in early March. The Bible Study group is finishing a study of the Beatitudes. Then for the last 3 weeks of Lent they will be reading and watching *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week* by Amy-Jill Levine. The labyrinth will also be available on Wednesday evenings during our Lenten Wednesday evening program of soup and creation care movie series. On Palm Sunday we will have a donkey coming for our Palm Procession out on the Common, followed by the Cantata. Easter Sunday will be a traditional Easter morning service. There will be an informational session for those interested in becoming members on Sunday, March 29 with May 31<sup>st</sup> being Joining Sunday.

Financial Reports: Treasurer Jeff Law reported that our overall loss in the Operating Fund year-to-date is worse than last year and worse than Budget. Income is worse than last year, while Expenses are better than last year. Pledges and Undesignated Contributions are running below budget.

Education: Larainne Wilson reported on Church School activities including serving Lenten Muffins for Heifer on the Sundays in March. Joyful Noise will next share on May 10 with a practice on May 3. The Middle School Youth Group had a successful February meeting and decided to support the Service Dog Project in Ipswich for their March project. They will be inviting rising 4<sup>th</sup> graders to join in on meetings. Faith Formation is looking for volunteers for the Nursery and Footprints, as well as volunteers to help run stations are out Autism Awareness Event scheduled for Saturday, April 4. Looking ahead, Children's Sunday will be June 7, and for Summer 2020 we will be offering an all ages class "An Awesome Adventure" for children in grades K-6 each week. The next FFMT meeting will be Tuesday, March 10.

Outreach: Linda Ladd reported on the activities of Outreach Ministries, including the blessing of the Green Wagon full of food of February 23, and hosting coffee hour on February 9. Members of the M & O team served dinner at Haven from Hunger on Monday, February 24. The next volunteer day is March 23 and the suggested donation items for March are pasta, tomatoes, and sauce. Linda attended the Bread and Roses' volunteer recognition event on January 31, and received a "Hero Award" for the crew who makes and delivers Centre Church's monthly meal of beef stew. M & O is sponsoring the youth/family Build-a-Bed event to be held at Wakefield/Lynnfield United Methodist Church on April 18. They will also staff a table at the Lynnfield for Love event scheduled for March 29.

Diaconate: Nancy reported that the Diaconate has met and discussed worship services and the installation of emergency buttons in the building and on two lanyards to be worn during services.

Stewardship: The Stewardship Campaign, "The Way," concluded on February 23. Pledges continue to come in.

Finance: Chuck Cotting reported on the various 2020 maintenance projects. Scott did some restoration work in the Chapel on a damaged book rack. The two-sided 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banners were put up outside the church. The rear entrance bulletin board is being prepared to be a resource board. Chuck has also talked to our representative at Fitts Insurance about the evaluation of the contents of our building, and he will begin listings and estimates for each room in the building. Delta Beckwith Elevator came and did an evaluation of the elevator and developed a proposal for improvements or replacement. Additionally, we will work on becoming a "Green Congregation, Level One."

Fundraising: Trivia Night and Silent Auction was held on February 8 and brought in around \$6,400 for our church. On February 25, Anthony's Cold Fired Pizza hosted an fundraising event that brought in \$287.07 for the church. Looking ahead, plans are in the works for a Flea Market and Bake Sale on Saturday, May 30 and a Centre Church Golf Tournament in June.

Coffee Hour: The schedule for hosting Coffee Hour was discussed and we continue to seek individuals to volunteer to host.

300<sup>th</sup>: Plans continue for our 300<sup>th</sup> Celebration Gala scheduled for Saturday, September 19 and the Progressive Worship on Sunday, September 20.

New Business: Discussion ensued around the upgrade to the Audiovisual System in the Sanctuary.

There being no further business, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Decker, Recording Secretary

**Next Meeting: Monday, March 30, 2020 @ 7pm**

**Meditation – Jill DiGiorgio**