

Parish Council Minutes - March 31, 2015

In attendance: Bruce Weaver, Dotty Whittier, Jim Marshall, Carrie Pericola, Kathi Martin, Margaret Waugh, Jeff Law, Jill Di Giorgio, Chuck Cotting, Debbie Cotting, and Rev. Dennis Bailey. Linda Ladd joined the meeting at 8:00 PM to engage in the discussion concerning information gleaned from the Marie Lucca presentation.

Moderator, Bruce Weaver convened the meeting at 7:00 PM, and Carrie Pericola offered the meditation.

Council approved the minutes of the February 25, 2015 meeting.

Pastor Report: Rev. Bailey reviewed pastoral concerns and worship activities. He noted that there are two baptisms scheduled on April 19 and a wedding scheduled for May 15. Rev. Bailey offered the benediction at the Eagle Court of Honor on March 15. He will take personal time from 4/6 to 4/10. Rev. Bailey will attend the UCC General Synod in Cleveland, OH from 6/25 to 6/30. He provided Council with vacation time he has planned. Preachers will be needed for 6/28, 7/5, 8/9, 8/16, 8/23. There will be an Easter Sunrise Service at Newhall Park. The Easter service in the Sanctuary will feature the choir's Easter Cantata.

Financial Reports: Treasurer, Jeff Law reviewed financial data as of 2/28/15. The overall loss in the Operating Fund year-to-date is \$50,169.85. This number is \$4085.27 better than last year and \$36,685.01 better than budget. Income year-to-date is \$20,418.14 better than last year and \$32,770.81 better than budget. Pledges largely caught up in December; they are now \$2181.99 worse than last year, but \$3773.52 better than budget. The Supplemental Pledge Drive raised \$33,165 through February; those funds were not budgeted. Expenses are \$16,332.87 worse than last year, but \$3914.19 better than budget. The variance from last year is mostly due to paying the Supply Minister in July and August, 2015. We didn't incur that expense in the prior fiscal year. Jeff noted that the expense data doesn't include snow plowing bills received in March, and we have not received anticipated income from Verizon Wireless because they have put the project on hold. Jeff cautioned that we need to continue keeping pledges up-to-date, encourage folks to keep contributing to the Rock the Boat supplemental drive, and continue good expense management. Thanks to Trivia Night, we are at 78% of our fundraising goal. Council approved a motion to transfer \$1000 from unallocated Outreach funds to Heifer. When added to funds already raised, we will be able to purchase another ARK. Financial Secretary, Jim Marshall reported that 68 pledges have been received to date; they total \$138,340. We have not yet received pledges from 44 people who pledged last year. Pledges to Outreach so far total \$16,364.

Christian Education: Barbara Langill reported that the first 4 weeks of Godly Play have gone smoothly with an average of 11 children attending. Carrie Pericola will attend Godly Play training, April 10-12. The Kid's Korner in the Sanctuary is popular. There will not be classes on Easter, but the Nursery will be open for children 5 and under. Christian Ed would like the older children to help lead worship on May 3 to wrap up Heifer Cornerstones. Children's Sunday will be June 14; the theme will be based on Noah's Ark and Heifer. The sale of Heifer muffins during Lent raised \$460.00. Twenty youth went to Sky Zone on March 1. On March 14, 7 youth and 3 adults volunteered at Cradles to Crayons; they brought items donated by the congregation. The end of the year celebration is scheduled for May 17. Twelve participants in the spring mission trip will travel to the Heifer Ranch in Arkansas, April 18-24. Proceeds from the sale of stock will help defray the cost which is estimated to be \$950/person. Also, Council approved the use of \$4200 in Outreach Funds (\$350/person) to subsidize the trip. A Shareholders' dinner will be scheduled for May or June. Education Ministries is planning a Lego Night on Sunday, May 3 from 4-7 PM. They are looking for donations of Legos and Duplo blocks. The event is open to all ages; pizza, drinks, and desserts will be served. Lauren Donadio and Jill DiGiorgio will lead the Cherub Choir, emphasizing rhythm and movement. They plan to have the children sing on Mother's Day, May 10. Education Ministries will not hold Vacation Bible School this summer. They will have Summer Sundays for kids with volunteers leading classes. Barbara and Kathi Martin will attend the Christian Educators conference in Craigsville from May 5-7, sponsored by NEAUCE (New England Association of Christian Educators.)

Education: Kathi Martin distributed a sample job description and possible salary guidelines to Council for purposes of discussion as we begin the process of replacing our Christian Education Director. After much discussion, Council voted to hire a part-time C.E. Director for 20 hours/week. Council then voted to approve the following: the salary range for the position will be \$15,000 to \$20,000, commensurate with experience and 2 weeks paid vacation with no other paid benefits. Education Ministries will fine-tune the job description and email it to Council members.

Membership: Dotty Whittier reported that turn-out was light for pictures with the Easter Bunny so they probably won't do it next year. The event raised \$185.00. Membership is working on the Flea Market and Bake Sale on 5/16. Laurel Caputo is heading up the Bake Sale. Membership plans to hold another Lobster Roll Sale on a date to be determined, and they are exploring other fellowship events.

Diaconate: Margaret Waugh reported that the Deacons and Parish Council members discussed the enthusiastic response to the Marie Lucca workshop at a joint meeting on March 14. Deacons met with Rev. Bailey and the parents of children who will be baptized on April 19. The Palm Sunday service will include Communion; palms will be distributed by Church School children. Noel Smith will fill in for Doug Hodgkins. The Deacons are preparing for the Maundy Thursday service.

Stewardship: Carrie Pericola is gathering the Time and Talent Pledge Cards and entering them into a spreadsheet. She will distribute the lists to the appropriate Ministry Team. Carrie noted that financial Pledge Cards are still coming in.

Finance: Chuck Cotting reported that we have received a request to use Todd Hall for a children's dance program, 2 days /week starting in August. The dance program director seemed amenable to the fee, and we are waiting to hear back from her. Chuck, Susan, and Dennis met with Cameron Office Products regarding our expiring copier lease. Cameron will supply us with a refurbished Bizhub copier at our current rate. Ice dams caused water damage in the Sanctuary, the library closet, Room 11, the downstairs kitchen, and the office workroom. Ice dams also caused 2 gutters to fall. Chuck is getting estimates to repair the damage and working with the insurance adjuster.

Marie Lucca Presentation: Council discussed several ideas generated by the Marie Lucca workshop. The conversation focused mainly on what could be implemented right away. Council voted to move ahead with Electronic Contributions using Vanco Services. Jeff Law and Jim Marshall will work with Vanco to implement the service. Chuck Cotting will contact the insurance company to check on any possible liability issues. Council feels that we can better utilize social media. Linda Ladd will contact Network Solutions, and Jill will get a quote from a Web Designer to look for ways to improve our website and Face Book page. Other suggestions included:

Forming a group to focus on our use of electronics and social media

Forming a group to read "The Real Good Church." The group would make recommendations based on their discussion of the book

Fundraising: Plans are underway for the May 16th event: Crafters on the Common and Flea Market on the church lawn.

There being no further business, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 PM. Rev. Bailey led a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary

Next Meeting: April 28, 2015 Mediation: Margaret Waugh