

Parish Council Minutes – May 26, 2020

Moderator Bruce Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. In attendance on Zoom: Bruce Weaver, Rev. Nancy Rottman, Chuck Cotting, Debbie Cotting, Katherine Decker, Scott DeSantis, Lisa Gerbick, Jill DiGiorgio, Linda Ladd, Jeff Law, AnnMarie Pendola, and Larainne Wilson. Lisa offered the meditation. Minutes from 4/27/2020 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. Our virtual worship services will continue through at least the end of June, which will include the conclusion of our Heart of the Matter series on Pentecost, followed by virtual Celebration Sunday. ONA Sunday will be celebrated on June 28. Nancy recommends extending virtual worship through July and August with the exception of two Communion Sundays for which she proposed doing a Parking Lot Communion.

The Church Offices have opened for Summer hours, which are Monday through Friday, 9am – 12pm.

Financial Reports: Treasurer Jeff Law provided Council with an update regarding the potential financial impact presented with the current pandemic.

Fiscal Year End Items: Typically during June, there is a Special Meeting of the Congregation to discuss the end of the Fiscal Year, which is June 30. Since we are unable to have group meetings, Council approved the following temporary measures until the Fall Annual Meeting. The 2020-2021 temporary budget will be approved by Parish Council, with only the final budget being approved by the congregation at the Annual Meeting. Additionally, it was agreed that this would also apply to the extension of terms of the church officers and team leaders.

Education: Larainne Wilson reported on the various Zoom offerings being held throughout the week. There is a Parent Support Group on Thursdays at 7:30pm, Under the Tent on Sundays at 4pm for children up to Grade 4, and Middle School Youth Group, which will next meet on Sunday, June 7 at 5pm. Plans continued to be made for celebration Sunday in June including how to honor our 2 high school seniors, Harlee Priestly and Daniel Miller.

Outreach: Linda Ladd reported that the Outreach Ministry Team has decided to give money each month to Haven From Hunger and Bread & Roses. Additionally, they will match any donation made by the congregation to local aid organizations. As of May 15 donations have been made to the Chelsea Collaborative, Project Bread, My Brother's Table, Citizens Inn and Massachusetts General Hospital. Linda spoke about Haven From Hunger as part of a Sunday worship, and the whole M&O Team will take part in Celebration Sunday.

Diaconate: AnnMarie Pendola reported that the Deacons continue to assist with contacting church members who are on the Congregation Care List. The Deacons met on May 14 and discussed personal updates, Congregational care concerns, feedback on worship services, questions and suggestions about how to proceed with future services and events. They will meet again in mid June.

Stewardship: Debbie Cotting gave an update on the status of pledges and what are the next steps to be taken.

Finance: Chuck Cotting reported on the various maintenance projects including that the building contents project, which is almost complete. Chuck will look into cleaning options now that the Church offices are open on the Summer schedule. In terms of capital maintenance projects, discussion around whether the normal “updating” of two Tower Day classrooms will take place.

300th Banquet & other activities: The 300th Banquet has been postponed to October 9, 2021. Fundraisers scheduled for May and June, as well as the November Craft Fair have also been cancelled.

Old/New Business: There was no old or new business to discuss.

There being no further business, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Decker, Recording Secretary

Next Meeting: Monday, June 22 2020 @ 7pm

Meditation – Linda Ladd