

Parish Council Meeting Minutes - 5/27/10

Attendees

Dennis Bailey, Chris Parker, Linda Ladd, Mary Ann Parker, Jim Marshall, Jeff Law, Chuck Cotting, Bruce Weaver, Kathi Martin

Meditation – Dennis did the meditation, reflecting about the care of his mother and how the people you meet and interactions with them are the most important thing in Life.

Pastor Report

- Kim Morrissey's father died very suddenly this last week. The funeral is this Wednesday at 10am.
- We are trying to keep the Sunday worship service to one hour. There is an increased focus on starting the service at 10:00, and the goal is to keep announcements to no more than 5 minutes.
- The Baptism for David and Marylee Riester's child coming up soon.
- Heather Lowe had a baby girl today. Baby Lowe has not been given a name yet.
- At the Diaconate meeting, there was a discussion about families who have obligations on weekends and if there could be another worship service at a different time during the week for families. The next step is to meet with some of the families in the Church and gauge whether this is an idea that would be appealing.
- Another idea was to have a "Pastor Exchange" one Sunday with other Lynnfield clergy. This is something that the clergy did in Billerica.

Approval of Prior Month's Minutes

- A Motion to accept the minutes from last month's meeting was made, seconded, and approved.

Treasurer's Report

- The Treasurer presented final April actual results and preliminary May results, as well as a projection for where we will end the year. As has been the trend for most of the year, Repair & Maintenance expenses are nearly double the budget for the year (\$22,703 projected expense versus a budget of \$11,500). This is the key item that will result in total expenses being approximately \$11,497 over budget for the year. The budgeted deficit for the year is \$5,545. To hit that mark would require us to achieve the Pre-paid pledge budget of \$4600 (which is unlikely given the results so far) and to receive June pledge of almost \$33,000 in the last 2 weeks of May and in June. So our best estimate is that we will miss our budget by \$5000 to \$10,000 which will result in a net loss this year of \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Financial Secretary's Report

- The congregation has responded very well to our appeals to submit money for MBA Dues. As a result, our receipts for MBA Dues are near budget for the year.
- For next year's pledges, sixty-three (63) pledge cards have been received so far. That leaves 76 pledges to-go (based on the 139 pledges received last year).

Special Meeting

- A Special Meeting of the Congregation has been called for June 13, 2010. The appropriate notices have been posted.
- At this meeting the Congregation will be asked to approve a preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 2011 (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011), approve signatories for the accounts at The Savings Bank, and extend the terms of the current officers until the Annual Meeting in September.

Christian Ed

The last Christian Ed meeting was on May 19.

- There was a discussion about Children's Sunday (which has been the first Sunday of the month). Attendance of children has been low, so there was a discussion about going back to having Communion first and then having the children leave for rotations.
- The Ice Cream social is on June 6.
- Next year, the Rotations may focus on baptism and Communion.
- The team has started to recruit shepherds and leaders for next year.
- Brittany DeSantis and Samantha White are the coordinators for the beach-themed Vacation Bible School.
- The Youth Group had a "zip-line" adventure this past month. Seventeen people attended and everyone had a great time.
- The Young Adult mission trip is in New Orleans right now! The group returns on May 29.
- The High School mission trip will occur at the end of July. Fundraisers are still in progress.
- There were discussions about a white-water rafting trip in the Spring.

- The OWL (Our Whole Lives) program – will begin in September. The program is open to the 7th-9th grade and will be run every other year. Parents of all potential participants will have the opportunity to meet with instructors and hear about the program so that the family can decide when the programming is appropriate for their child.

Outreach - No “new news” since the last Parish Council.

Education - No report

Membership

- The May Day event was very successful. A good time was had by all. The Treasurer reported that the event raised approximately \$3500 (net, after expenses).

- Membership met this week about summer events. There are various ideas for a cruise – including the possibility for a redux of the highly-successful and universally acclaimed Essex River Cruise (with Woodman’s after, plus a standing-room-only performance by Peking & the Mystics), or the possibility of a Duck Tour, or other potential events.

- There is also discussion about an “end-of-the-summer” or “start-of-the-year” affair at the Church, with possible catering options from Woodman’s, Redbones, Hilltop Steak House, or CountrySide Deli.

- There was also a discussion about the coffee hour and that additional snacks/treats are nice but shouldn’t be considered necessary (as this can be a burden to the hosts). So we will re-emphasize that “coffee hour” is intended to be about coffee and fellowship.

Diaconate

- The Protestant Chaplaincy met here for their last meeting. Linda Ladd attended. Linda reported-out to Peggy Batchelder (Missions chair) as Missions has supported this group in the past.

- Confirmation was Mother’s Day. By all accounts the Confirmation service was successful and very meaningful for the Confirmands, their families and the Congregation.

- Feedback about the Worship service was gleaned via the Ministerial surveys – and the Diaconate is helping to make some changes. One item is starting the Service on-time and trying to keep it to one hour. So the Diaconate is working with Dennis and Doug about how to make some modifications – including the starting of the Prelude and limiting the time slot for announcements (short, to-the-point, no more than 30 seconds each, no more than 5 minutes total). The Diaconate will also encourage those who do the Scripture readings to speak slowly and clearly and with enough volume so that congregants who sit in the back row can hear.

- Organ Maintenance - another estimate for the organ received from David Wallace. A prior estimate was received by Thad Outerbridge. Margaret Waugh took the action to communicate back with each of these parties to get more specifics and a clarification of their quotes so that Parish Council and Doug may compare the proposals and make a decision. As of this meeting of Parish Council, there is \$2000 in the Organ Maintenance Fund – with much of the proceeds coming from the Deacon’s Breakfasts.

- Choir Director’s Job Description – Linda Ladd, Dennis, David Clough (and maybe others) will form a group to meet with Doug and update the job description for the Choir Director. It is expected that an evaluation process will follow later in the year with feedback from the Congregation (similar to what was done for Dennis).

Stewardship

- The Stewardship report echoed Jim Marshall’s report. Fewer than half of the pledge cards have been returned. We will make announcements on the next few Sundays to remind people to return their pledge cards.

Finance Ministries

- Flood update – Phil Johnson is negotiating further with insurance company. Then we will look at available money and decide what repairs will be done.

Website

- We recently became aware of a web service company that specializes in websites for Churches. They have a connection with the UCC and have been approaching UCC churches to see if they are interested. The set-up is free, and then there is a monthly fee. A sample of their work can be viewed at:

<http://www.connectedword.com/ucc/>

There are many technical questions which would need to be answered before the Church would consider using this service. For now, Parish Council members were encouraged to look at the website samples. Then we will discuss this more at our next meeting. There was a general feeling among Council members, however, that an inviting, dynamic website is essential to attracting new members. In this age, most young people and young families use the web for “everything”, and this includes searching for a place of worship. So the Church’s website is as essential component of our Membership activities.

Next meeting - Wednesday, June 23 at 7:00pm. Meditation by Peggy Batchelder.