

## Parish Council Minutes - May 27, 2014

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

Moderator, Bruce Weaver convened the meeting at 7:05 P.M. Debbie Cotting offered the meditation.

Council approved the minutes of the April 22, 2014 meeting.

Pastor Report: Rev. Bailey reviewed pastoral concerns and his worship-related activities over the past month. He attended the Metropolitan Boston Conference of the UCC Annual Meeting on May 4. On May 6-7, he attended the Mass. Corps of Fire Chaplains retreat, and on May 15, he attended the Day of Covenant, Mass. Conference of UCC, with Minister and President James Antal. Rev. Bailey discussed the preparations he has made for his up-coming sabbatical. He noted that Noel Smith will fill in for Doug Hodgkins while he recovers from surgery with the exception of Sunday, July 6.

Financial Reports: Treasurer, Jeff Law reviewed financial data as of April 30, 2014. Our overall loss in the Operating Fund is \$77,960.05 which is \$28,847.78 worse than last year, but \$7011.14 better than budget. Income year-to-date is \$34,805.50 worse than last year and \$2499.14 worse than budget. Our pledge income is \$4942.74 lower than last year at this time, and Other Offerings are \$6900 lower. Expenses are \$5957.72 better than last year and \$9510.28 better than budget. Staff expenses, MBA Dues, Property Expenses, and Fundraiser Expenses were all lower than anticipated. Jeff noted that we are 83% through the fiscal year, and we are at 75% of our fundraising goal. Financial Secretary, Jim Marshall reported that his May numbers seem to indicate that people are beginning to catch up on their pledges.

2014-2015 Preliminary Budget: Jeff Law reviewed the Preliminary budget for FY 2015. The Preliminary Budget assumes 2% salary increases, a 5% increase in insurance costs, and a 10% increase in medical insurance. Council voted to adjust the expense numbers for Church School, Adult Education and Family Life, and Youth Ministry to reflect budgeted numbers for FY 2014. Council then voted to approve the Preliminary Budget as amended to present to the Special Meeting of the Congregation on June 1, 2014.

Christian Education: Barbara Langill reported that Sunday, June 8 is Children's Sunday; the Ice Cream Social will follow the service. High School graduates have been invited to attend and be recognized during the service, and the Heifer Ark award will be presented. The church school children planted marigolds on May 25, and 8 youth were confirmed in May. Nursery care will be offered during the summer with Brenda Curren as caregiver. The Education Ministry Team will meet on June 2 to finalize plans for next year. Both Youth Groups traveled to Canobie Lake Park for their end-of-the-year celebration. Plans are underway for a Youth Group day at the beach this summer. Ten youth and four adults have signed up for the Orland, ME mission trip in July. Three youth and three adults have registered for the "Sleep at Home" Habitat for Humanity mission trip in August. The May yard sale raised \$710 which will be divided between the church operating budget and the mission trips. The M&M fundraiser will raise money for the mission trips as will the sale of mission trip stock. Shareholders will be invited to attend a dinner in the fall to hear trip participants present their experiences. Barbara attended a 3-day conference of the New England Association of Christian Educators. The conference theme was "Sticky Faith"-how to help youth and young adults have faith that will stick with them. Barbara attended workshops on Intergenerational Worship, Vibrant Faith, and Dickinson Small Group Bible Study. On June 14, Barbara will attend the Mass. Conference, UCC

annual meeting as a delegate. She's been asked to present the Certification in Christian Education awards to those who have completed the two year program.

Outreach: Council voted to donate \$500 from the Outreach fund to Autism Speaks.

Membership: Dotty Whittier reported that table rentals at the yard sale raised \$170. That money, added to the \$710 raised at the church table, brings the total funds raised at the yard sale to \$880.

Membership has received orders for 54 lobster rolls. Twenty people have signed up for the Salem Trolley ride on June 8. Membership hopes to order free business cards from Vista Print for their "Cousins" program. One side of the card will contain church information, and the other side will have a space for the name and contact information of the person acting as a "cousin."

Diaconate: Margaret Waugh reported that there are potentially 4 vacancies on Diaconate. Diaconate decided that services should return to the Sanctuary on Sept. 7, not Sept. 14. Rev. Jamie Howard will not be available on Sept. 7 so Christian Education Ministries will conduct the service. Communion for Sept. is scheduled for Sept. 14.

Stewardship: Carrie Pericola reported that the Stewardship Team is finishing writing thank you notes to people who have submitted their pledge cards, and they've begun calling folks who pledged last year, but haven't returned pledge cards this year. Stewardship recommends that the church establish an on-line giving program which they believe younger families and visitors would find attractive.

Finance: Chuck Cotting informed Council that the Tower Day re-licensing went extremely well; no deficiencies were cited. In preparation for the inspection, the wooden fence around the playground was replaced with a vinyl fence, and Scott DeSantis and Chuck scraped and painted the portico outside Room 14. Glenn Pyburn will place 3 large boulders near the playground fence to protect it from plowed snow next winter. Phil Johnson and Chuck plan to re-grade the brick patio area this summer. The window well behind the brick patio is in the process of being repaired. The cement cover has been replaced, and the granite blocks and bricks will be re-set soon. The roof project will begin on or about July 7, weather permitting and is expected to take about 7-8 days.

Tower Day School Director Search: Bruce Weaver announced that Leah O'Brien has been hired as the new Tower Day School Director effective July 1. She will spend some time with Sally MacDonald prior to July 1 to ensure a smooth transition.

Fundraising: We are close to our fundraising goal for FY 2014. Now, it's time to begin thinking of fundraising ideas for next year. Barbara Langill recommended holding a fair on Oct. 18. She noted that lots of craft supplies have been donated.

There being no further business, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 P.M. Rev. Bailey led a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary

**Next Council Meeting: June 24, 2014 Meditation: Barbara Langill**