

## Parish Council Minutes - May 27, 2015

In attendance: Barbara Langill, Chuck Cotting, Carrie Pericola, Debbie Cotting, Jill DiGiorgio, Bruce Weaver, Dotty Whittier, Jim Marshall, Jeff Law, and Rev. Dennis Bailey. Moderator, Bruce Weaver convened the meeting at 7:05 PM. Carrie Pericola offered the meditation –a Godly Play story. Council approved the minutes of the April 28, 2015 meeting.

**Pastor Report:** Rev. Bailey reported on pastoral concerns and his worship activities over the past month. He officiated at a funeral on May 7 and a wedding on May 15. He attended several special events during the month of May including Lillian Fould's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party, the Metropolitan Boston Association Spring Meeting, the Tower Day luncheon, the Shareholders' Dinner, our Crafters on the Common and Flea Market, and the installation of the new Associate Minister in North Reading. Rev. Bailey also attended the Mass. Corp. of Fire Chaplains Conference, the Lynnfield Firefighters Retirement Dinner, and the Lynnfield Memorial Day ceremonies, where he served as Chaplain. He will attend the UCC General Synod in Cleveland, Ohio from June 25-30. He reviewed his plans for vacation time and noted that all Sundays are covered except August 9. Rev. Bailey reported that Firefighters' Sunday is June 7 at 8:30 at the Center Fire Station. During worship on June 7, we will recognize and celebrate Beverly Perkins for her 24 years as a Tower Day teacher. She is retiring at the end of the school year.

**Financial Reports:** Treasurer, Jeff Law reviewed financial data as of April 30, 2015. The overall loss in the Operating Fund year-to-date is \$79,562.48. This loss is \$1752.42 worse than last year, but \$26,856.28 better than budget because the unbudgeted Supplemental Pledge drive raised \$34,675 through April 30. Expenses were \$18,721.85 worse than last year, but \$4428.22 better than budget. The variance versus last year is largely due to the fact that we paid the Supply Minister in July and August of this fiscal year, and we did not have that expense in those months of the prior fiscal year. Snow plowing costs were \$1935 worse than budget, but heating costs were \$1418.15 better than budget. Jeff projected income and expenses for the remaining two months of the fiscal year, and he anticipates ending the year with a deficit of \$50,142 in the Operating Fund. Jeff then reviewed budget projections for FY 16. He noted that his projections assume that we receive all outstanding pledges. The projections do not include a supplemental pledge drive, staff raises, income from Verizon, or the need for a supply minister. The Fiscal Year 16 projected budget would end the year with a \$16,162.85 deficit. After reviewing the projections, Barbara and Jill noted that the Christian Education team anticipates that a second Godly Play classroom will be needed next year, and the projected budget doesn't include the costs related to adding the classroom. In order to avoid adding significant expenses to the projected FY16 budget, Council voted to fund the costs of adding the Godly Play classroom from Memorials, to the extent possible, with the remainder coming from the C.E. portion of the operating budget. Council also voted to change the Faith Development total from \$3203.26 to \$4380 – the same amount that was budgeted in FY15. Jeff reminded Council that this preliminary budget will be fine-tuned over the summer. The final budget will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting in September. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Preliminary Budget as amended and present it to the congregation at the Special Meeting on June 7. The motion passed unanimously. The congregation donated \$570 for the Nepal Relief Effort sponsored by Heifer. Council approved matching that amount from the Outreach budget. A check for \$1140 will be sent to Heifer. Jim Marshall reported that \$805 in Supplemental donations have been received in May, bringing the new total to \$35,480.

**Christian Education:** Barbara Langill reported that plans are underway for Celebration Sunday, formerly Children's Sunday, on June 14. The children are learning the "Arky, Arky Song", and letters have been sent to High School graduates to invite them to be recognized in the service. The Heifer award will be presented on June 14. Marigolds were planted on May 24. Nursery care will be provided during summer worship, and Sunday Summer Camp will be offered for children ages 3 and up. This year's theme is "2015 Ark Avenue: God's Great Get-Together." Adult volunteers are needed to lead the class which will meet in the Library. The new date for the Youth Group trip to Canobie Lake Park is May 31. Forty-eight people attended the Shareholders' dinner. Barbara attended the 3-day conference of the New England Association of Christian Educators in Craigville, MA. Molly Baskette, author of "Real Good Church" was the keynote speaker. Barbara will attend the Mass. Conference, UCC Annual Meeting on June 13 as a delegate. She will also present the Certification in Christian Education awards for those who have completed the two-year program. Jill DiGiorgio updated Council on the search for the Director of Faith Formation.

**Membership:** Dotty Whittier noted that her team continues to explore the idea of holding our Trivia/Silent Auction night offsite. They are checking a variety of sites and getting prices. Dotty reported that events of May 16, Crafters

on the Common, Flea Market, Bake Sale, were all successful. The events grossed about \$2800. To date, approximately 60 lobster rolls have been ordered for the sale on 5/31. Membership is researching several possible fellowship events for summer and fall. Dotty is looking for new folks to join the Membership Team.

**Diaconate:** Margaret Waugh submitted a written report. Diaconate, following the recommendation of Council, decided to hold summer services at 10 AM rather than 9 AM to see if attendance is higher. Diaconate continues to work with Rev. Bailey to find Worship Leaders during his vacation time. Worship Leaders are in place for most Sundays. Diaconate anticipates 2 openings in the fall, and they are contacting prospects to fill the vacancies.

**Stewardship:** Carrie Pericola reported that Stewardship will contact people who pledged this year, but have not yet submitted their pledges for next year. She noted that as a result of reading “Real Good Church”, she has been pondering some different ways to approach our annual Stewardship Campaign.

**Finance:** Chuck Cotting updated Council on a variety of maintenance projects including the following: leaking sprinkler piping was replaced by Metro-Swift, the Grandfather Clock was repaired, broken toilet was fixed, and Metro-Swift replaced a leaking compressor hose. Chuck met with the MA State Inspector and Delta Beckwith for the annual elevator inspection. Scott Desantis power cleaned the handicapped ramp railings and the storage shed. Scott Baker replaced the Book of Remembrance lighting with LED lighting. The basement kitchen window will be replaced soon. Chuck met with Janice Miller of Janice Miller Dance Company who will begin holding dance classes in Todd Hall in Sept. The insurance claim for ice and water damage was approved. The total claim was \$6988.97, less the \$2500 deductible, for a net of \$4488.97. Recoverable depreciation is another \$633.59 for a final total of \$5122.56. Chuck made arrangements for the gutter and fascia to be replaced after the Tower Day school year ends. Scott Desantis will begin office and sanctuary repairs when services move to the chapel. Chuck is working on a prioritized list of capital and maintenance projects with associated costs.

All Ministry Team Leaders have encouraged their members to read “Real Good Church” and attend the discussion on June 10.

**Fundraising:** Council reviewed the Craft fair, flea market, and bake sale held on May 16. Crafters and Flea Market vendors were pleased. We earned \$665 from crafters’ fees, \$210 from Flea Market vendors, \$1010 from our flea market sales, \$240 from the bake sale, and \$180 from the craft table staffed by Centre Church people, and a generous \$500 donation. Council had previously agreed to designate a portion of the proceeds to the Youth Ministry Fund. Council voted to transfer \$685 to the Youth Ministry Fund. Debbie Cotting reported that she spoke with Highland Shredding in Woburn about holding a “Shredding Day” fundraiser when people could pay a nominal fee to have documents shredded. She will find out what dates are available.

**Officers and Team Leaders:** Bruce Weaver reviewed open positions and positions anticipated to be open in the fall. He noted the importance of filling these positions.

**New Business:** Council discussed research done by Linda Ladd on Council’s behalf. Linda spoke with Network Solutions about their Online Marketing Boost package in order to find ways to correct information about Centre Church that appears on many websites. For example, some sites have the wrong phone number for the church. Council voted to employ Network Solutions for one month at a cost of \$200 in order make these corrections and help us promote ourselves on the internet. Rev. Bailey informed Council that Alyse Barbash has resigned her position as Executive Director of Haven From Hunger.

There being no further business, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary

**Next Meeting: June 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at Bruce Weaver’s house. Meditation: Bruce Weaver**