

Parish Council Minutes - November 1, 2017

In attendance: Bruce Weaver, Jill DiGiorgio, Jeff Law, Annmarie Pendola, Linda Ladd, Larainne Wilson, John Sievers, Chuck Cotting, Debbie Cotting, Jim Marshall, and Nancy Rottman.

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

Pastor Report: Pastor Nancy's focus has been meeting with Ministry Teams. She will meet with the Care Team soon. She's been visiting shut-ins and people in the hospital. The Clergy Group announced that there will not be an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service this year. Instead, there will be an Ecumenical Prayer Service and Opioid Candlelight Vigil at Saint Maria Goretti Church on Sunday, Nov. 19 from 6:30-7:30 P.M. Nancy reviewed the Advent/Christmas schedule of events. In January, she will get a team together to discuss communication, marketing, branding, and the church website. Also in January, she plans to have a prospective members' luncheon for those interested in joining the church.

Financial Reports: Treasurer, Jeff Law reviewed financial data as of 9/30/17. He noted that there is an overall loss in the Operating Fund of \$16,878.80. Income year-to-date is \$18,819.95 worse than last year and \$1590.92 worse than budget. Pledges and Building Use donations are down, but Undesignated Contributions are up. Jeff expects that people will bring their pledges up-to-date. Overall, we are on-track for income. Expenses are \$16,229.31 better than last year and \$11,177.84 better than budget. Jeff sees no surprises in our spending so far this year.

Education Ministries: Larainne Wilson and Jill DiGiorgio provided updates on Faith Formation activities. Since September, they have had 3 new families with children (6 nursery, 1 high school, 1 Brick by Brick). The Nursery is overflowing with Pre-Schoolers. Faith Formation is exploring options to address their needs. Council discussed the need to hire a teacher so we can add a second Godly Play class to accommodate the increased number of preschool children. Council voted to appropriate \$2185 to fund salaries of Godly Play teachers (1 for elementary age @\$1235; 1 for preschoolers @\$950.) When the Preschool Teacher completes the Godly Play training next fall, Council anticipates the salary amount will increase to \$1235. Council also voted to appropriate \$950 as the salary for the anticipated hiring of a Lead Teacher for Brick by Brick. Larainne noted that they have some good candidates for that position. The Young Families Group has been meeting on the playground after church, and the Halloween party was a huge success with about 40 attendees. Joyful Noise will rehearse on 11/5 and 11/12, and they will sing during the 11/19 service. The children's pageant, focused on the waiting of Advent, is scheduled for 12/17. Youth Group attendance is down due to a low population in that age group. The Giv2 group is bringing school supplies to Empowering People for Inclusive Communities (EPIC). Care packages were mailed to our 4 college students.

Outreach: Linda Ladd reported that \$1500 has been donated to Disaster Relief via the Giving Tree. Outreach matched the amount and sent \$3000 to the UCC Emergency USA Fund. People continue to volunteer at Haven From Hunger on the 4th Monday of the month. Pumpkin carving raised \$50 for HFH. Outreach gave \$150 to the Boston Area Gleaners when Giv2 picked apples with them on 10/21. They donated over \$400 worth of school supplies for Giv2 to fill “teacher bags” when they volunteer at Boston Serves. Outreach is collecting Shaw’s Saver Stamps, redeemable for Rachel Ray bakeware which will be given to Mission of Deeds. Kate Sheehan, Heifer International, will present us with a new Ark Award on 11/12. Outreach will host the Heifer Living Gift Market on 12/3.

Membership: John Sievers reviewed scheduled events and ideas for new activities. Trivia/Silent Auction is Saturday, Feb. 3, 2018. Flea Market/Bake Sale is May 12, 2018.

Diaconate: Annmarie Pendola reported that the Deacons’ Breakfast raised \$425 for the organ maintenance fund. Kathi Martin is joining Diaconate. The Communion pitcher is being repaired, and some of the organ keys are sticking; they’ll be repaired when Dave Wallace comes for the organ’s annual maintenance. Annmarie reviewed various services and events that involve Diaconate.

Stewardship: Debbie Cotting will meet with Pastor Nancy to review materials and dates for the 2018 Stewardship Campaign.

Finance: Chuck Cotting reviewed a variety of items: Improvement of Chancel lighting, remote rear door unlocking, pew cushions for chapel, Staples Business Program, purchasing an AED, outdoor signs, hot dog machine donation, drafting an evacuation/fire drill plan. Council voted to add pot lights with LED bulbs and replace current lightbulbs with LED bulbs in the chancel at a cost of \$2400. Chuck distributed a proposal to replace the Summer St. sign. Based on Council’s comments about color and wording, Chuck will get a new proposal for Council’s review. Council voted to purchase a Zoll AED Plus machine and supplies at a cost not to exceed \$2000.

Fundraising: The Yankee Candle Fundraiser raised \$479.60. Crafters on the Common will be replaced with a fall Holiday Fair to be held on November 3, 2018.

There being no further business, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary Pro-tem

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, December 5, 2017 Meditation: Bruce Weaver