

Parish Council Minutes

October 30, 2012

In attendance: Rev. Dennis Bailey, Bruce Weaver, Kathi Martin, Sandi Watson, Chuck Cotting, Dotty Whittier, Debbie Cotting, Barbara Langill, Linda Ladd, Carrie Pericola, and Jeff Law.

Moderator Bruce Weaver convened the meeting at 7:10 P.M., and Debbie Cotting offered the meditation.

Council approved the minutes of the September 25, 2012 meeting.

Pastor Report: Rev. Bailey reported on his activities since the last Council meeting, including funeral s and weddings conducted and attendance at family celebrations. He taught confirmation class on Oct. 21 and accompanied the confirmands on a field trip to Boston for the UCC Heritage Tour. Along with Barbara Langill, he attended a workshop at Bentley University entitled "Pastoral Counseling for LGBT." Rev. Bailey noted that there will be a Veteran's Day ceremony on the common at 11:00 A.M. on Nov. 11, and the ecumenical Thanksgiving service will be held at St. Maria Goretti on Sunday, Nov. 18 at 7:00 P.M.

Financial Reports: Jeff Law reviewed the Treasurer's Report through Sept. 30, 2012. He noted that our overall loss in the Operating Fund is \$24,718.50. That figure is \$8,973.05 better than last year at this time and \$5581.77 better than budget. Income is also ahead of last year and \$7160.51 better than budget. Pledges and fundraisers are off to a stronger start than last year, and some supplemental pledge contributions have been received. Jeff reviewed all fund balances, and Barbara Langill noted that the Youth Group fund has a higher balance than usual at this time of year-\$5868.70. She felt that the proceeds from the Recycling, Pumpkin Patch, and Yankee Candle fundraisers could go entirely to the church operating budget rather than be divided between the operating budget and Youth Group Fund as was done last year. A motion was made and seconded to deposit proceeds from those 3 fundraisers to the church operating fund. The motion passed unanimously. Jeff and Bruce reported that a parishioner has made a generous donation of \$20,000 to Centre Church. Discussion ensued as to the best use of this donation. Further research of the best options will be done over the next month so that Council can decide at the November meeting how to allocate the funds. Jeff informed Council that Jim Marshall will be sending notices to people who have not paid MBA dues.

Christian Education: Barbara Langill reported that Bibles were given to children in the 3-5 year old class, the third graders, and the ninth graders on Oct. 28. Church school has completed the unit on King Solomon. The focus in November will be "You can be a Hero too", with an emphasis on Heifer International. Both youth groups have begun meeting, and they earned \$116 on their pumpkin carving fundraiser. The Confirmation class of 8 girls has met. The Recycling Drive is scheduled for Nov. 10. Barbara informed Council that there are two people in the choir who need child care at 9:00 A.M. on Sunday mornings in order to attend choir rehearsal. Barbara will explore options and cost of providing child care at 9:00 A.M. on all Sundays including holiday weekends.

Outreach Ministry: Sandi Watson reported that, in response to Hurricane Sandy, the Outreach Team will send a donation to Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries in New York City. This organization provides critical help to struggling people in the Hell's Kitchen area, and it's the organization that members of our youth group served in Feb. Outreach will collect Target gift cards for Journeys of Hope through Nov. 4. Sandi plans to contact Carl McDonald to ask about the idea of targeting a specific family or two when we collect for City Mission Society in Dec. Rev. Bailey has relinquished his sermon time on Nov. 18 so that Sandi can update the congregation on Heifer International's work in the United States. She presented an outline of a slightly alternative worship service for that day, and Council enthusiastically supported her ideas for the service.

Membership: Dotty Whittier reported that Trivia night was successful though less well-attended than Feb. Trivia nights. Seventeen people attended Double Indemnity at Stoneham Theatre, and several went to dinner at Felicia's after the show. Membership is working on the apple pie/carrot cake fundraiser, and they've received many orders

to date. Dotty noted that Membership needs helpers to make pies and carrot cakes; they also need volunteers for Sunday morning coffee hour.

Education: Kathi Martin reported that her team is coordinating A Journey to Bethlehem to be held on Dec. 2 in lieu of the Advent Workshop. Kathi informed Council that she had a personnel-related item to discuss. After Barbara and Carrie left the room, Kathi noted that Barbara needs to temporarily reduce her hours through May 2013. In order to provide adequate coverage, Kathi proposed that Council create a temporary position, Church School Superintendent to work 5 hours per week at a rate of \$15 per hour. The hours would include meeting and preparation time with the Director of Christian Education and each Sunday that church school is scheduled. She further proposed that the Director of Christian Education's salary be reduced by 5 hours per week so that there would be no increased cost to the church. In fact, there could be a slight savings of approximately \$1350. Council agreed with the proposal and voted unanimously to create the temporary position of Church School Superintendent for FY 2013 at a rate of \$15 per hour for a total of 5 hours per week. They further voted to reduce the salary of the Director of Christian Education by \$375 per month for FY 2013 to reflect fewer hours worked. Council then appointed Carrie Pericola to the temporary position of Church School Superintendent for FY 2013.

Diaconate: Linda Ladd reported that the Oct. 28 Deacons' Breakfast raised \$130 for the organ fund. Dave Wallace will service the organ in mid-November. Other breakfasts will be scheduled for early Dec. and late Jan. The Deacons plan to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas on Nov. 25. The Diaconate is looking for people to light Advent Candles and read scripture. The Life School Musical by the Children's Choir and the dedication of the Walsh Memorial Stage have been postponed until Jan. with the exact date to be determined. The Deacons intend to coordinate a lunch for that event.

Stewardship: Carrie Pericola reviewed plans for the supplemental pledge drive to raise \$25,000. The theme will be "Go the Extra Mile for Centre Church" and a letter will be sent to the congregation to explain the need for the drive and ask for their support. Carrie will make a visual guide for the Sanctuary to indicate the progress of the campaign.

Finance: Chuck Cotting provided updates on projects related to the Walsh Memorial Stage including sump pump installation, new curtain and valance, new closet, and electrical work. Chuck is working on a list of major capital projects to address such issues as water infiltration, roof and gutter replacement, and restoration of the sanctuary windows and the exterior of the building. Chuck continues to search for grants to support solar panels for south-facing roof. Those units could not be installed until we replace the roof. Chuck noted that the cost of supplies is running less than in past years, and the damage from Hurricane Sandy was minimal.

Fundraiser Update: The Recycling Drive is scheduled for Nov. 10. The Yankee Candle Fundraiser is complete, and Debbie estimates that it raised about \$650 for Centre Church. Barbara reported that net profit from the Pumpkin Patch was about \$1100.00.

Old Business: Jeff Law requested that a sub-committee be formed to assist him in reviewing the checklist of financial controls contained in a recent letter from the UCC Insurance Board. Bruce, Chuck, Debbie, and Jim Marshall will join with Jeff to form the sub-committee. A meeting date will be scheduled.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 P.M. Rev. Bailey led a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary

Next Meeting Date: November 27 at 7:00 P.M. Meditation by Chuck Cotting