

## Parish Council Minutes - September 2, 2015

In attendance: Bruce Weaver, Dotty Whittier, Jeff Law, Chuck Cotting, Barbara Langill, Jill DiGiorgio, Debbie Cotting, and Rev. Dennis Bailey.

Moderator, Bruce Weaver convened the meeting at 7:05 P.M.

Council approved the minutes of the June 24, 2015 meeting.

Pastor Report: Rev. Bailey reviewed pastoral concerns and his worship-related activities since the last Council meeting. He officiated at two funerals, a committal service, and a renewal of wedding vows over the summer. He is planning a memorial service for Sept. 19. Rev. Bailey worked with the Superintendent of Schools and members of the Lynnfield Rotary Club to plan and lead a vigil on the Town Common in memory of Sonny Tropeano. He has reached out to the Tropeano family and will continue to do so. Rev. Bailey is working with Education Ministries to develop a Confirmation Class to begin in the fall. He has sent the posting for the Director of Faith Formation to the Mass. Conference and local divinity schools.

Financial Report: Treasurer, Jeff Law reported that Online Giving is up and running; a link to Online Giving can be found on our website. Jeff reviewed financial data as of June 30, 2015 – the end of our fiscal year. The overall loss in the Operating Fund was \$53,660.97. This loss is \$12,625.08 worse than last year, but \$13,176.57 better than budget. Income for the year was \$12,625.08 worse than last year, but \$15,592.80 better than budget. We did not budget for the Supplemental Pledge Drive which raised \$36,755. We did anticipate receiving \$10,000 from Verizon Wireless who had requested permission to put a cell antenna in our steeple, but that project has been delayed so we have not received any income from Verizon Wireless. Pledges, Prepaid Pledges, Prior Year Pledges, Loose Offerings, Building Use Donations, and Wedding Donations came in slightly below budget. Expenses basically came in on-budget. Overruns in Snow Removal and Repair and Maintenance were offset by savings in Pastor Expenses, Oil and Gas, and Insurance.

2015-2016 Operating Budget: Jeff Law circulated the FY 2016 draft budget which projects an overall loss of \$34,158.79. The draft budget projects income to increase by \$440.97. Pledge income is projected to decrease by \$6887.38. The Pledge Income projection includes the \$179,810 currently pledged and \$16,742 from people who pledged last year, but have not yet done so this year. It also assumes that we will receive 100% of the amounts pledged. We have not budgeted for any income from Verizon Wireless, but income from T-Mobile is projected to increase by 2% per our contract with them. Income from Building Use is expected to increase by \$3720, and the Tower Day contribution is projected to increase by \$40,000. Current projections for expenses include a 2% increase for staff salaries and related personnel expenses and 5% for insurance costs. The salary for the Director of Faith Formation reflects Barbara Langill's retirement and a budgeted range for a part-time replacement for the remainder of the year. Pastor Expenses have been budgeted at \$5500 consistent with the pastor's Terms of Call, but Rev. Bailey's expenses typically run much lower. Faith Development and Music expenses have been budgeted slightly higher than last year's actual to be consistent with prior years' budgets. The change in the Supply Minister reflects the fact that Jamie Howard was with us at the start of FY 15 during Rev. Bailey's sabbatical, but will not be with us in FY 16. Overall expenses are expected to decrease by \$19,061.21. The combination of higher expected income and lower expected expenses will decrease our operating loss by \$19,502.18 – from a loss of \$53,660.97 this year to an anticipated loss of \$34,158.79 next year. Jeff noted that we cannot sustain losses like these given our modest endowment. The only choices he foresees are substantial cuts to our already tight expense budget or another Supplemental Pledge Drive. After a period of discussion, Council voted to accept the draft budget as presented and hold a Supplemental Pledge Drive to cover the deficit. The budget will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on September 20, 2015.

Christian Education: Barbara Langill reported that Kids' Summer Sunday Camp was offered on 10 Sundays during the summer. Volunteers led the class on 5 Sundays, and Barbara led the class on 5 Sundays. Attendance ranged

from 1 to 4 children. High School youth volunteered as helpers in the nursery and the camp. One to two children were in the nursery each Sunday with care provided by Alicia Dwyer and an aide. One class of Godly Play will be offered this year for children from 3 years to 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Materials to cover Sept. 13 – Jan. 17 have been ordered. Some slightly used wooden stories were purchased from Salem Tabernacle Church. Lisa Gerbick will be the Godly Play Storyteller. She attended Core Training in California since no sessions were offered on the east coast until April. Lisa stayed with friends of Rev. Bailey, and her airfare was covered with donated Jet Blue miles, so the only cost was the registration fee. Barbara has organized an inter-faith youth group consisting of youth from Centre Church, St. Paul's, the Catholic Collaborative, and Wakefield/Lynnfield United Methodist Church. This UCC, service-based group is called Give Squared (Giv 2) and will be open to youth in grades 5-12. The program coordinator is Linda Ladd who will be assisted by Denise Weaver. Barbara has met with Jill DiGiorgio several times to work on program plans for Church School and Youth.

Education Ministries: Jill DiGiorgio reported that the Christian Ed team met on Sept. 2 to discuss plans for the fall. There will be a breakfast club on 2 Sundays each month for students in grades 5 – 12. Until the position of Director of Faith Formation is filled, Education Ministries proposes to hire a Sunday School Superintendent to oversee Sunday morning activities, make sure rooms are open, take attendance, fill in as needed, etc. The C.E. team recommends that the Sunday School Superintendent and the Godly Play Storyteller be paid positions. Council approved the plan.

Membership: Dotty Whittier reported that Membership is offering a Boston Red Sox game on Friday, September 25 at 7:10 P.M. They are discussing ideas for Trivia Night and a dinner at Bertucci's where the church could earn 15% of total sales. Membership recommends dividing responsibilities for a Night in Bethlehem.

Diaconate: Margaret Waugh reported via email that people seemed to like the 10 A.M. summer service.

Finance: Chuck Cotting reported that several projects were completed over the summer, including painting one TDS classroom and the Teachers' Room, repairing some torn screens, stripping and waxing a TDS classroom floor and the Teachers' Room floor, and moving some cubbies and bulletin boards for TDS. In addition, the handicap ramp railings and trim around the rear entrance were painted, carpets in the Narthex, Fireside Room, first floor halls, 3 stairways, and upper office hall were cleaned, sprinkler compressor hose was repaired, and the de-humidifier in Todd Hall was replaced. We continue to experience problems with the elevator door; major repair is scheduled. Carpet in the center stairway and second floor TDS area was replaced. In October, Weinstein and Weinstein will replace the two gas furnaces that service the Fireside Room and the Library. Chuck noted that two new people have contracted to use our building: The Janice Miller Dance Co. will hold dance classes 2 – 3 days/week in Todd Hall, and Rose Bogossian will teach piano lessons 1 -2 days/week in the Choir Room. Work to repair the snow and ice damage has been completed. Chuck will submit paid invoices to the insurance board to try to recoup some or all of the deductible. Chuck thanked Scott DeSantis and Tony Ramirez for working to complete the painting and repair projects.

Annual Meeting: scheduled for Sept. 20, 2015 immediately after worship.

Old/New Business: Bruce noted that Linda Ladd is working on getting our website "cleaned up" before making changes. Debbie reported that the Yankee Candle Fundraiser begins Sept. 13 and runs through Oct. 4. The church earns 40% of all sales.

There being no further business, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 P.M. Rev. Bailey led a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary