

Parish Council Minutes – March 1, 2021

Moderator Bruce Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. In attendance on Zoom: Bruce Weaver, Rev. Nancy Rottman, Chuck Cotting, Debbie Cotting, Katherine Decker, Scott DeSantis, Jill DiGiorgio, Linda Ladd, Jeff Law, Annmarie Pendola and Larainne Wilson. Katherine offered the meditation. Minutes from 2/1/2021 were approved with unanimous consent.

Pastor Report: Rev. Nancy Rottman provided updates on the state of the church, virtual worship and Zoom gatherings, congregational care, and community activities. The Lenten season began on February 17 with Ash Wednesday. The Lenten theme is Holy Vessels, which focuses on healing and recovery. Rev Nancy will be meeting with the Deacons to discuss plans for Holy Week. She continues her work with *A Healthy Lynnfield*, which has been offering the “Together in 2021,” a virtual series on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The third session, “Stakes is High” will be held on Thursday, March 11. Parish Council continues to participate in facilitated conversations with Rev Laura Stephens-Reed.

Financial Reports: Treasurer Jeff Law provided Council with an update regarding the budget and the potential financial impact presented with the current pandemic.

Education: Larainne Wilson provided an update on Church School and Faith Formation activities. On Saturday, February 13 the Youth Group and Young Families Group joined with Mission and Outreach in the parking lot for a socially distant, Fill the Goat Tube event to raise money for Heifer International. There were Valentine’s treats, crafts for kids and Lenten bags for families. The schedule for Church School is set for March. March 7 will be on Love God, Love Your Neighbor from Illustrated Ministries. Godly Play lessons will be for the rest of the month, March 14 is the Parable of the Mustard Seed and March 21 & 28 will be Faces of Easter. The Parent Support Group will continue to meet via Zoom on Thursdays at 7:30pm. Upcoming dates include Youth Group on March 20, and an Easter Drive Thru on April 3. Faith Formation is tentatively planning June 6 as Children’s Sunday.

Outreach: Linda Ladd reported on the activities of the Mission and Outreach Team. As previously mentioned, M&O joined with Faith Formation for a drive-through collection of coins to fill the goat tube on February 13. The drive raised \$448.

M&O are joining with Tower Day, other Lynnfield preschools and the Lynnfield elementary schools for a “Bare Necessities” drive for Citizen’s Inn. Items are being collected through Saturday, March 6.

Each month Tower Notes will contain a write up on a local food pantry. In February, the Wakefield Food Pantry was highlighted and March will feature The Greater Boston Food Bank. Anne Hayes, The Food Project Director, will attend CCC Fellowship on March 21. The next order for Equal Exchange will go in on March 26. Items geared towards Spring and Earth Day have been added to the list of available items. On Saturday, April 3 there will be a parking lot drive-through event that will be focused on sustainability in honor of Earth Month.

Diaconate: Annmarie Pendola reported that the Deacons continue to assist with contacting church members who are on the Congregation Care List. In February, the deacons sent out Valentine’s Day cards and thinking of you notes. They plan to send out cards for Easter cards. The next Diaconate meeting is March 3. In addition to personal

and Congregational care updates, there will be a discussion about sending out cards for Easter and the various preparations for Holy Week.

Stewardship: Debbie Cotting reported that the Stewardship team will be meeting on March 8 to finalize dates and theme. They are asking for pictures to be included in a narrative budget to reflect what has been done this year and in years past.

Finance: Chuck Cotting reported on the various maintenance and capital maintenance projects. On Super Bowl Sunday, the snow-plowers discovered a leak with the outside hose connection. A new one has been installed along with a second, more assessable inside shut off valve. Delta-Beckwith came in multiple times to fix various elevator issues. Chuck also provided an update on the reconstruction work.

Current Issues: There was a brief discussion about planning for renovation of the kitchen.

Old/New Business:

There was a discussion about what steps need to be taken to enable a hybrid (virtual/in-person) worship experience. A motion to proceed with the video portion of the sanctuary reconstruction was made and approved by unanimous consent. There was also a brief discussion about planning for a rededication ceremony.

There being no further business, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Decker, Recording Secretary

Next Meeting: Monday, March 29 @ 7pm

Meditation – Jill DiGiorgio