

Parish Council Minutes – November 29, 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, Linda Ladd, Jeff Law, Jim Marshall, Annmarie Pendola, Laraine Wilson, and Scott DeSantis. Laraine offered the meditation. Minutes from the October 25 meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

Pastor Report: Rev. Nancy had to leave the meeting early. Her written report noted that the Advent worship series has some slight changes to the order of worship and a new bulletin format. The larger bulletin eliminates the need for large print bulletins and allows room for more announcement details. The bulletin can be converted to .pdf so it can be posted online. Linda Ladd created an “In the Sanctuary” tab on the website. Rev. Nancy updated the language on the website to describe our worship life, and there is a tab to access the bulletin for folks who worship via the livestream.

There is a new iPad for the Fireside Room to enable the livestreamed worship to be viewed on the TV. It creates the modern version of a “crying room” and space for overflow. It also provides opportunities for faith formation to use media in the Fireside Room.

We have and will continue to include some children and youth leading worship. Some may serve as liturgists; youth group members may help light the Advent candles.

Rev. Nancy noted that it’s wonderful to be planning Christmas services and to be offering a variety of opportunities for people to worship and connect during the season.

COVID-19 Update: Rev. Nancy reported that there have been 91 new cases in Lynnfield over the past two weeks; most have been children and teens. We’ve begun collecting contact tracing information for worship so that we can notify should there be any positive cases among the worshipping community. Rev. Nancy recommended that we continue with our precautions for the time being.

Parish Council will soon begin the process of doing a ministry by ministry review of the bylaws to determine what works and what changes we would recommend. Rev. Nancy will provide resources to help guide that work.

Rev. Nancy will be on vacation from January 23-28. She will secure pulpit supply and coverage for pastoral care.

Financial Reports: Treasurer Jeff Law provided financial data as of 10/31/21. He noted that we are better than last year at this time and better than budget. Jeff reminded Council that the Southern New England Conference of the UCC has adopted Proportional Giving in lieu of membership dues and OCWM. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to send \$11,000 (\$5500 from the Operating Budget and \$5500 from Mission and Outreach) to SNECUCC as the Centre Church contribution. Jeff also suggested that Council, as a housekeeping matter, pass a motion to confirm the action taken at Annual Meeting regarding Rev. Nancy’s housing allowance as printed in the budget. Council approved the motion on the housing allowance consistent with the amount in the budget approved at Annual Meeting and the minister’s Terms of Call.

Education: Laraine Wilson reported that Alicia Dwyer will be leaving her nursery position after many years of service. We will choose a Sunday in early 2022 to honor Alicia. Laraine has posted the position on Indeed. There was a great Youth Group turnout for the Oct. 30 meeting and the Turkey Drive. Jill DiGiorgio is organizing

a Young Families hike at Partridge Island Trail – she hopes it can happen before it snows. Another option is ice skating at Market Street.

Outreach: Linda Ladd reviewed Mission and Outreach activities over the past month. Linda and Debbie Cotting chatted about Centre Church and sold EE and EB goods on the common on 11/6 as part of the Art Guild's Fall Show. The Waughs delivered 10+ boxes of pantry supplies to Bread and Roses. Thanksgiving food and 18 frozen turkeys were delivered to Haven from Hunger. Annmarie Pendola delivered \$500 in gift cards to Ma Duke's. M&O matching donations in November totaled \$271.58 – checks went to Bread & Roses, Citizens Inn, and La Colaborativa. For Christmas, M&O is offering the Heifer Living Gift Market and collecting gifts and gift cards for City Mission, Haven from Hunger, La Colaborativa, and Bread and Roses. Tower Day is collecting for City Mission too.

Diaconate: Annmarie Pendola reported that Deacons sent Thanksgiving cards to folks on the Congregational Care list and decorated the church for the Christmas season. They participated in the Celebration of Charlotte McClure's life and the baptism of Julian Mario. Deacons will join M&O to host "Help us Decorate the Angel Tree" on Dec. 5. Annmarie reviewed the various services and events scheduled for December. She is waiting to hear from David Wallace regarding organ maintenance.

Stewardship: Debbie Cotting reported that the 2022 Stewardship Campaign will take place after Easter which is April 17, 2022. Exact dates and theme TBD.

Finance: Chuck Cotting reported on building maintenance and noted that we have a new custodian, Yessi Castro. Chuck reported that we received the final payment from the insurance company to settle our sprinkler failure/water damage claim. The Insurance Board notified the church that they will not renew our policy when it expires. We are in negotiation with three insurance companies to secure coverage. The Investment Committee (Sara Mauser, Stephen Riley, Bruce Weaver, Jeff Law, Chuck Cotting) met on November 2 to review our current holdings and properly align our investments into separate accounts: one for our endowment and another for other investments. The committee is working to transfer Fidelity and Black Rock investments into accounts at TD Ameritrade.

Fundraising: Chuck reported that a spring golf outing is scheduled for Monday, June 27, 2022 at the Thomson Club.

Old/New Business: Bruce Weaver reminded Council that time will be set aside at Council meetings for reviewing bylaws and planning.

There being no further business, Council voted to adjourn at 8:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary pro-tem

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 11, 2022

Meditation: Chuck Cotting