

Dunbarton Congregational Church  
Church Council Meeting  
April 15, 2018

Present:     **Moderator** – Alexis Wallace  
              **Clerk** – Lynn Leslie  
              **Pastor** Chris Owen  
              **C/E & Curios** – Stephanie Herlihy  
              **Deacons** – Bill Zeller  
              **Missions** – Patty Shearin & Anne Zeller  
              **Search Committee** – Jen Oliver  
              **Stewardship** – Jen Oliver  
              **Communications** – Absent  
              **Treasurer** – Absent  
              **Trustees** – Mike Shearin  
              **At Large** – Barbara Bennett  
              **Music** – Absent

March minutes were accepted.

**Reports:**

- **Treasurer** (Mike Shearin): through the end of March, about \$1,200 behind which is normal during this time of year. Treasurer's report: accepted.
- **Pastor:**
  - Attended the Interim Ministers Conference. Subjects of merging vs yoking (sharing a pastor), church vitality meaning people "touched" vs membership and the definition of regular church goers is currently those who go less than weekly.
  - The month included Holy Week & Easter, the Deacons did a good job
  - Worked with the search committee and members' needs
  - Pastor compensation discussion; PRC should do the evaluation; the conversation of compensation should include the moderator and a trustee representative in the last quarter. PRC will bring the compensation recommendations to the annual meeting for a vote
    - The recommendation to establish an ad-hoc committee which will include the Moderator, a Trustee and PRC member to determine the pastor compensation package was passed.
    - A review is still needed to develop the goal setting process. Mike Shearing will help with writing up a policy. The goals for pastor *and* congregation is a two-way conversation.
  - Observations: attitudes about the UCC guidelines for compensation among members vary. Discussions need to stay respectful. Mike suggested better transparency on the part of the UCC showing church comparisons.
- **C/E:**
  - Had a good Easter; there were 8 kids for the Easter egg hunt
  - The next Food for Thought is still open for time and subject
  - Children's Sunday will be June 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Blessing of the Animals will be April 29<sup>th</sup>
  - There are three campers for the Horton Center
- **Curios:**
  - All is going well. There are enough volunteers and averaging \$100-\$130 per opening

- **Missions:**
  - There were eight Easter baskets
  - One Great Hour of Sharing display is at the back of the church, ends May 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Diversity books are available at the library and will also be at the school
  - Three Great Loves is an ongoing program for the next two years. UCC is collecting stories from churches on “love of neighbor, children and creation”
  - Next week will be one of the roadside clean-ups that take place four times a year
  - Fresh food/fresh start presentation at the church next week with a reception at the vestry following the service
  - Sue Bracy has joined the missions committee
  - The Blessing of the Animals will again do the Heifer Collection
  - Looking at doing another presentation in the fall hosted by the Humanities Council
- **Deacons:**
  - Marsha McKay will be leaving for the summer
- **Communications:** absent
- **Music:** absent
- **Search Committee:** the profile and brochure have been submitted
- **Stewardship:** no update
- **Trustees:**
  - Looking at the UCC insurance proposal. Not much difference from previous policy
  - The second draft of the vestry rental agreement has been completed

#### **Discussions & old business:**

- **At Large** (Barb Bennett):
  - The new book club has been set for the first Thursday at 7:00 pm each month.
  - The pastor’s office needs some “spiffing up”. Paint, remove/replace carpet(?), remove some furniture
  - The town and state have been contacted regarding the sign for the church. Working with quotes and Trustees to get the best deal.
- **Arts on the Common:** need baked goods and volunteers. Will put a sign-up sheet in the church.
- **Member list:** letters will be sent to 23 members for an update of their status.
- **By-laws:** a committee will be established to review and update by-laws regarding members

**Next Church Council meeting May 20<sup>th</sup>**