

Dunbarton Congregational Church
Church Council Meeting (in person & zoom)
September 12, 2021

Present:

Moderator – Linda Morse
Vice Moderator – Scott Leslie (zoom)
Clerk – Lynn Leslie
Pastor – Robert Vodra
C/E & Curios – Stephanie Herlihy
Deacons – Carol-Ann Jane & Joyce Ray (zoom)
Missions – Anne Zeller (zoom)
Stewardship – Linda Morse
Treasurer – *Absent*
Trustees – Addison Chase
Communications – Linda Morse
Music – *Absent*
Members at Large – Barb Bennett (zoom)
In attendance – Mark Lang

Opening Prayer: Pastor Robert

August Church Council minutes were accepted

Pastor's Report:

- Robert was busy during his time off for two weeks
- Last week's attendance was down, but hopefully will get back to normal once the summer is over.
- There will be a celebration of life in the spring for Nancy Sherman.
- Robert will reach out to an organist who volunteered to play the organ when she saw the church sign showing that Nancy passed away. (There may be money available to pay her)

Mission Statement:

- The council discussed the two mission statements and unanimously agreed to accept the second statement. It will be presented at the annual meeting for a vote.
 1. "We are a faith centered Christian church, welcoming everyone, living by faith, rooted in community, and acting as a voice of hope to the world."
 2. **"We are a faith centered Christian church, welcoming everyone, living in God's grace, rooted in community, and a voice of hope to the world."**

In person worship & vestry activities regarding the Delta variant:

- The UCC recommends outside worship, but as our congregation is small and people have the space to distance, we will continue as we are currently doing...wear masks coming and going
- When the weather gets cold, we agreed that the heat will be turned on early before the service and once people start entering the church the heat will be turned off.
- The CDC recommends that masks be worn whether a person is vaccinated or not
 - Game Night will be put on hold until further notice, a review will be done at the next council meeting
 - AA meetings: the participants decide how they want to proceed. An updated notice should be put on the vestry and church doors showing the current CDC recommendations.
- The book club will leave it up to the facilitator on whether to meet in-person or zoom.

Old Home Day Bake Sale & Curios update:

- The bake sale brought in over \$300, and the Curios made over \$350.

Rally Day:

- There will not be a Rally Day this year due to low attendance and the Covid restrictions

Lighting in the Narthex and podium:

- Scott changed bulbs and purchased a light for the podium
- Questions for the trustees: how do the bulbs get changed in the chandeliers in the church?
 - Wreath sales this year?

Deacons:

- The deacons have discussed creating a welcome package and/or cards for visitors. The communications committee and the deacons will meet to come up with a plan
- Robert will be out on October 17th
- The deacons have approached the trustees about bundling the funeral fee to include the cost of the vestry, when needed, so the family would write single check for the use of the church.

Missions:

- The roadside cleanup was last week
- The VNA will be at the vestry for flu shots on November 2nd from 9 to 11 am
- Contact Patty Shearin for the free Earthbreeze detergent samples.

Discussions:

- Christmas concert? After much discussion, it was agreed that an in-person concert would not be a good idea this year. Lizz will be approached as to whether she would want to do a recorded concert again. Discussion to be continued at the October council meeting.
- The quilts donated by Robert's mother are available for hanging in the vestry downstairs. Any that are not used can be donated to the Curios for sale.
- The sound of the recorded service is hard to understand. Stephanie is adjusting the volume as Robert speaks. Robert and the deacons hesitated to use the hand held mike, such as during Joys and Blessings, and Robert was asked to use the mike and repeat what people said so that everyone can follow the discussion.

Closing prayer: Pastor Robert

The next church council meeting will be October 10th after church service in the vestry in person and Zoom.