

Dunbarton Congregational Church  
Church Council Meeting  
September 8, 2019

Present:       **Moderator** – Linda Morse  
                  **Clerk** – Lynn Leslie  
                  **Pastor** Robert Vodra  
                  **C/E & Curios** – Stephanie Herlihy  
                  **Deacons** – Carol-Ann Jane  
                  **Missions** – Patty Shearin  
                  **Stewardship** – Linda Morse  
                  **Communications** – Linda Morse  
                  **Treasurer** – *Absent*  
                  **Trustees** – Mike Shearin  
                  **Music** – Lizz Ferdina  
                  **Open & Affirming** – Carol-Ann Jane  
                  **At Large** – Margaret Venator  
                  **In Attendance** – Scott Leslie & Mark Lang

Opening Prayer

August minutes were accepted

**Updates on Old Business:**

- **Open & Affirming:**
  - During the October 20<sup>th</sup> service Gerri Cannon, a UCC member who is active in the NH Conference, will speak about Open & Affirming. Lunch to follow.
  - A book relative to the LGBTQ community will be chosen for a discussion topic at the DCC Book Club.
  - It was suggested that church members reach out to educate the congregation and community about the Open & Affirming process and to encourage attendance at one or more of the O&A committee's informational sessions regarding the process.
- **Creation Justice:**
  - Jen Oliver continues doing research and on Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> will do a presentation during the church service on Creation Justice and the UCC initiatives. The emphasis will be on the process of recognizing the church's identity as a "Creation Justice" church.
- **Communications – Church sign proposal**
  - Margaret Venator has made the generous offer to donate \$5,000 toward the overall cost of \$7,455 for the sign. *Update: Margaret has since said she will pay the entire proposal amount with the hope that the sign could be installed before winter.*
  - ⊖ An announcement of the sign proposal will be sent in the weekly newsletter and a display of the sign will be put in the church
  - The trustees discussed different lighting options.
  - The State approved the sign replacement. The town will be contacted on Monday. *Update: Monday morning (the 9<sup>th</sup>) Trustee, Scott Leslie, was told approval was needed by the selectmen after the proper form was completed, which has been done and submitted.*
  - Contact with the sign company will be made to determine the possible schedule of the installation. *Update: Scott contacted the sign company Monday morning, also.*

- **Christmas Concert**
  - Lizz will contact the people needed for the concert. Danny VanKalken has agreed to his involvement. Lizz is looking for more kids and possibly teenagers.
  - A committee will be formed and meet at the end of September or beginning of October.
  - There were discussions on whether the balcony will be used and whether the length of the concert might be changed.
  - Lizz asked if the platform for the concert could be painted. Mike said the trustees will take care of it.
- **Rally Day:**
  - All committees have been asked to contribute food items for the Rally Day luncheon.

## **Committee & Pastor Reports:**

- **Pastor:**
  - UCC General Synod was attended in June. The biggest UCC resolution was supporting the Green New Deal, a federal congressional resolution, and Robert encouraged all to read it.
  - Summer hours starting at 9:30 was appreciated to beat the heat.
  - Two weeks of vacation in August was a wonderful break.
  - Robert has been nominated to chair the NH Conference's Wider Church Relations Ministry; the vote will be in October at the annual meeting.
  - He attended his first Newly Called Ministers Clergy Support group which will happen every month for the next two years.
  - Robert encouraged finding a backup person to send out the Thursday weekly newsletter when he's not around. He'd be happy to train any volunteers; the task is not that complicated.
- **Trustees:**
  - Projects included repairs and painting
  - Trustees will discuss capital improvements such as the purchase of a new furnace at their next meeting
  - Windows are still on the list of things to do
  - Treasurer's report not available but Mike stated that pledges are behind, as usual during the summer. Stewardship Committee will work with the treasurer to send out pledge statements.
- **Missions:**
  - A grant was received that allows for reimbursement of the tote bags purchased by Patty for the program presented in April.
  - Next roadside cleanup will be October 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - The committee is considering a speaker in October and a film series on Creation Justice.
  - Patty will look into movie suggestions for family movie night regarding climate change.
- **C/E:**
  - Church school will be set up at the back of the church where the kids will have access to headphones to listen to church music. If it's a large group, they will move to the vestry.
  - Book club is doing well. There were 12 in attendance this month.
  - Considering a class on "Stop the Bleed", first aid in emergency situations.
  - The community breakfasts will start again in January of 2020.

- **Curios:**
  - A new tablet was purchased and set up by Linda Nickerson.
  - The inventory is always changing. The Curios has the best group of volunteers who are mostly community members.
- **Stewardship:** Next meeting September 25<sup>th</sup>
- **Music:**
  - Zac Trojano, an occasional performer at the Spireside, mentioned that he would like to have a concert in the vestry. Lizz will find out more details.
  - A new cover for the piano costs about \$200. Lizz will request it for next year's budget.
  - Lizz will schedule a piano tuning
  - Lizz has two pianists scheduled
- **Discussions:**
  - Halloween: Patty will talk to Shelley about the preparation
  - The church will offer the vestry restroom to vendors during the Mother's Day Arts on the Common next year.
  - There was a brief discussion on the mental health crisis in New Hampshire and a reminder how we should not forget our neighbors and friends in need.

***The next Church Council meeting is October 13 after the church service.***