

Dunbarton Congregational Church
Church Council Meeting
January 12, 2020

Present: **Moderator** – Linda Morse
 Vice Moderator – Jen Oliver
 Clerk – Lynn Leslie
 Pastor Robert Vodra
 C/E & Curios – Stephanie Herlihy
 Deacons – Carol-Ann Jane
 Missions – Patty Shearin
 Stewardship – Jen Oliver
 Communications – Linda Morse & Bob Ray
 Treasurer – *Absent*
 Trustees – Mike Shearin
 Open & Affirming – Joyce Ray
 At Large – Barb Bennett & Margaret Venator
 In Attendance – Scott Leslie

Opening Prayer

December minutes were accepted

Updates on Old Business:

- **Open & Affirming:**
- Discussions at the Food for Thought included the difference between being Open and being Affirming. “Open” is passive and “affirming” implies action, meaning we accept the responsibility of openly welcoming and even advocating for the LGBTQ community in a variety of settings. Also discussed at the Food for Thought was the content of the Open & Affirming covenant.
- On February 23rd there will possibly be a speaker on the topic of ONA.
- A draft of the proposed Open & Affirming covenant will be presented to the church council in the March meeting. A survey will go out regarding the covenant and the eventual vote to become an ONA church will hopefully take place in May. There will be a statement explaining the implications for DCC as an Open & Affirming church.
- **Creation Justice:**
 - Next meeting will be January 19th to work on a plan of action including planning for the distribution of a survey.
- **Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC):**
 - Evaluation forms will be given to each committee’s individual members to give input on the pastor’s performance in meeting the needs of the congregation and the congregation’s care of the pastor. These need to be returned to the PRC’s mailbox by February 9th. The PRC will summarize the evaluations and present the results to the church council in the March meeting. This will be a tool for developing goals for both Robert’s growth as our pastor and the Church Council’s relationship with him. Evaluation forms will be available in church this coming Sunday, the 19th so that interested members of the congregation can participate in the evaluation process.
- **Annual meeting:** snacks & munchies are needed. A new warrant will be done to include the snow date.

New Business:

- **Active Shooter Training:**
 - The training will take place on January 23rd at 6:00 pm. The number of people that sign up will decide whether it will take place in the vestry (upstairs or downstairs) or in the sanctuary. Let Mike Shearin know if you will attend.
 - There will be a discussion about feelings of having weapons in church.
- **Communications – specialized worship services**
 - The goal is to encourage new faces to experience a worship service with us. Services will be designed for specific groups; “Biker Sunday”, “Animal Sunday”, “Artists Sunday” etc. to be held possibly once every other month and advertised through internet, newspapers, and direct contact with targeted groups. Committees are asked to identify a few types of groups that we could focus on for a designated Sunday.
- **Yearlong calendar:**
 - A yearlong calendar will be established so that the year’s activities are laid out. This should help avoid having too many special events in one month and allow for better planning and publicity of the major events, especially fundraising. Committees are asked to identify dates for their activities through the upcoming year to be listed at the March CC meeting. Some upcoming events already scheduled include the following:
 - Food for Thought dates: May 2nd, August 1st, and November 7th Topics: TBD
 - February 9 – Green Team guest Julie Green regarding Plarn
 - February 23 – last ONA presentation
 - Ladies’ Game Nights – every other month on the 4th Friday
 - May 3 – ONA vote
 - May 17 – Blessing of the Animals
 - June 14 – Blessing of Motorcycles (maybe Bikers Sunday)

Pastor’s report:

- December and early January have been busy with services, bulletins, newsletters, Christmas Concert, Bible studies, web training, committee meetings, Caroling, Secret Elf pick-up, PRC meeting and Food for Thought gatherings.
- Robert is attending a monthly Newly Called Pastors’ group that is helpful in support and discussion for those pastors who have been called to a new church in the NH Conference in the past two years.
- Robert had a visit with his parents over New Year’s weekend. They’re health is failing which may mean additional visits this year.
- There will be an O&A Bible study after church on January 19th discussing scripture passages that have been used against the LGBTQ community.
- Don’t forget to let Robert know by Wednesday 5:00 if you want anything added to the newsletter

Committees:

Trustees:

- If church is canceled due to weather Robert will send out an email and it will also be displayed on WMUR (under “F” for First Congregational Church of Dunbarton)
- The new church sign is on hold until the weather cooperates.
- Mike now has the key to the safe deposit box that was previously held by Dean. Pam might have one as well.

Deacons:

- The community fund will now go through the missions committee
- Carol-Ann is looking to reinforce the magnetic strips on the name tag board
- The deacons are updating their “playbook” with input from Robert
- The Christmas Carol song book will be redone by next Christmas
- The Blessing of the Animals will be May 17th
- Blessing the Bikes will be June 14th
- Summer worship (July and August) hours will be 9:30 to 10:30 am
- The deacons are looking for ways to recycle and keep the costs down of the weekly bulletin
- Weekly activities will be included in the bulletin
- A combined service with St. John’s will take place for Ash Wednesday

Missions:

- Planning to have movie nights that are related to environmental issues

- **Discussions:**

- The membership list is again being updated. Per the revised By Laws, adult children who are members and who have not been active in the church for three years will be removed and added to the inactive member list. This will bring the active member count to below 70.
- There was a discussion about having a private “member only” section of the website that would show church docs such as council minutes and the church bylaws. It was decided that these items do not contain confidential information and will be open to anyone interested in learning about our church.

The next Church Council meeting is February 9th, after the church service.