

Dunbarton Congregational Church
Church Council Meeting
October 10, 2021

Present:

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

Opening Prayer: Pastor Robert

September council minutes were accepted

Pastor's Report:

- Covid is still a concern. Robert believes that given the number in attendance on Sundays we should be able to continue in-person services while maintaining a safe distance from each other. We will continue to hold off on social events until the covid numbers go down.
- Robert is open to ideas about the Christmas Eve service. An on-line service is planned given the fact that an in-person service would have a larger crowd singing and the heat would be on. Possibly opening the church in the afternoon of Christmas Eve with Christmas music playing, inviting people to just come by.
- The numbers for attendance are down, but we are not alone. Other churches have also seen a decline in attendance since covid. Robert has been reaching out to folks he has not seen recently to just check in and encourages others to do the same to just say "hi".
- Zoom meetings have been a blessing for the Deacons and the book club because so many people are away for the summer. Other committees have been meeting in person.
- Robert will be reaching out to Dan Andrus about partnering with St. John's for the Thanksgiving service as was done last year.
- Nancy Sherman's memorial service will be June 4, 2022.

Curios new lease:

- The new lease increased the rent by \$25.00 for the next six months, then will go on a month-to-month agreement. A \$400 deposit was requested but \$300 was paid as a deposit on the original lease so it was agreed that the church would only pay the additional \$100. The rent is also to include heat which will be installed. (To date the heat has been regulated by the apartments on each side of the Curios.) The back room can be used for storage, but customers are not allowed out back for safety concerns.

Christmas Concert: Lizz is moving forward with the production of the concert to be viewed online.

Trustees - Wreaths and Poinsettias: Wreaths will be sold this year, although the prices will be going up. Tom is looking into the poinsettia information; it will be discussed at the trustee meeting on the 20th.

Communications: a "Welcome" card has been created for guests coming to the church. All was going well until Linda's computer crashed, she'll begin work on it again once her new computer is up and running.

Stewardship: also waiting for Linda's computer.

Missions:

- VNA Flu shot clinic on Nov. 2nd from 9 to 11. No appointment is required.
- Just finished up the last roadside clean-up of the year on Saturday Oct. 2nd.
- They will be packing Thanksgiving Baskets on Sunday, Nov. 21st and organizing Operation Secret Elf again this year. Patty has started working on these two projects and will know more toward the end of October when the families contacted have to have their paperwork in.

Deacons: Robert will be out next week

Discussions:

- **Dissolution clause:**
 - This is a statement that will be added to the bylaws. Simply stated, it is a "Will" for the church explaining how the church assets would be disbursed if the church disbands.
 - Reach out to the conference for a generic statement that can be made specific for DCC? Robert has contacted the conference for guidance.
 - Think about where you would like to see the assets go?
 - Form a committee to address the specifics when needed, now just create this clause as non-specific guidance.
 - Members should prayerfully consider what the process involves
 - This is not to be interpreted as an end to our church, just a proactive step in writing a "Will"
- **Halloween:**
 - Shelley will decorate the church and get candy.
 - Carol-Ann, Robert and Stephanie will welcome the trick-or-treaters.
 - Music options are Danny or Linley on the organ or recorded scary music.
- **Nominating committee** is looking for a new vice-moderator, treasurer and clerk starting in January. This is usually a three-year commitment. There was a discussion on whether or not the term length should be changed from 3 years, as stated in the bylaws, to 1 year. Recently, committee members have seemed reluctant to commit to 3 years but have been willing to go year by year. A bylaws change may be necessary. Discussion will continue. Contact Linda if you're interested.

Closing prayer: Pastor Robert

The next church council meeting will be November 14th after church service in the vestry and zoom.