

Dunbarton Congregational Church
Church Council Meeting
December 5, 2021

Present: **Moderator** – Linda Morse
 Vice Moderator – Scott Leslie
 Clerk – Lynn Leslie
 Pastor – Robert Vodra
 C/E & Curios – Stephanie Herlihy
 Deacons – Carol-Ann Jane
 Missions – Patty Shearin
 Stewardship – Linda Morse
 Treasurer – *Absent*
 Trustees – Tom Bennett
 Music – *Absent*
 Members at Large – Barb Bennett

Opening Prayer: Pastor Robert

November council minutes were accepted

Pastor's Report:

- It has been three years since Robert's first worship service at DCC. He has gone from in-person services to on-line services, back to in-person, definitely not what he had expected.
- Covid numbers continue to rise, and hospitals are filling up.
- He had a few days off near Thanksgiving enjoying time spent with his son, Glenn. Thanks to Carol-Ann for doing the service on the Sunday after Thanksgiving.
- He did the annual Thanksgiving service on-line with St. John's
- In the wider church world, he has been working with a Member in Discernment.
- He has resumed holding office hours on Wednesday mornings from 9-11.

COVID and worship:

- The cold weather will be making it uncomfortable in the sanctuary if the heat is turned off (so the blower doesn't run), in the attempt to prevent the spread of germs. As the weather is getting colder, the heat will have to remain on for the church to remain comfortable. So, all future in-person services will require that masks stay on during the service. This information will be updated in the newsletter and at the start of each service.

Trustees:

- The dissolution clause is being worked on. The state statutes need to be considered. The trustees will find someone to talk to about specific requirements. The trustees believe it will be a brief general statement describing the process on how to dissolve the church assets if ever needed. This statement will be added to the by-laws and would be used only as a guideline by the members should the church ever close. In short, a dissolution clause is like a non-profit "Will" similar to the personal Wills we all have.
- The wreaths were sold out; about 60 decorated and 40 undecorated.
- The trustees need the committee budgets by December 10th.

Missions:

- There are 19 children being helped through our Community Fund's Secret Elves program. Robert will help Patty pass out the items on Wednesday, the 15th from 5 to 7.
- There were 12 Thanksgiving baskets prepared.
- Missions is still looking for a volunteer for the food pantry. Patty explained that the food pantry comes under the missions committee and is a stand-alone activity, separate from the Easter and Thanksgiving baskets.

Christmas Concert: last known release date was December 11th. Linda will check with Lizz for an update.

Curios:

- This past Saturday had record sales of \$600!
- November sales were \$1,883. \$8,500 has been transferred to the church so far for the year, since reopening in April.

Communications:

- The welcome cards are now available, to be handed out to church visitors along with a "DCC pen" purchased for that purpose. Linda printed a small amount for this first run but will have future cards sent to the printers. Using a slightly modified version of these cards could be offered at the Town Hall and mailed to new community members.

Stewardship:

- Only 16 of the 60 pledge cards mailed have been returned, totaling about \$16,000 in pledges. Robert will put a reminder in the newsletter that these need to be returned asap.

Deacons:

- The piano has been tuned but the tuner sent out the wrong bill for \$320 and has corrected the amount to \$150. Pam will reissue a check and the piano tuner will rip up the check for \$320.

O & A:

- Carol-Ann, Bob and Joyce visited a church in Hollis via zoom to explain our process of becoming a O & A church.

Annual Meeting:

- The annual meeting has been scheduled for in-person on January 23rd. (January 30th for a snow day.) If COVID restrictions requires the church to shut down, we will do the meeting via zoom.
- Linda needs committee reports by January 9th for the annual report.

Closing prayer: Pastor Robert

The next church council meeting will be January 9th after church service in the vestry and zoom.