

Dunbarton Congregational Church  
Church Council Meeting  
February 9, 2020

Present:       **Moderator** – Linda Morse  
                  **Vice Moderator** – Scott Leslie  
                  **Clerk** – Lynn Leslie  
                  **Pastor** Robert Vodra  
                  **C/E & Curios** – Stephanie Herlihy  
                  **Deacons** – Joyce Ray  
                  **Missions** – *Absent*  
                  **Stewardship** – Jen Oliver  
                  **Communications** – Linda Morse & Bob Ray  
                  **Treasurer** – *Absent*  
                  **Trustees** – Scott Leslie  
                  **Open & Affirming** – Joyce Ray  
                  **At Large** – Barb Bennett

Opening Prayer

January minutes were accepted

**Updates on Old Business:**

- **Open & Affirming:**
  - There was a discussion on how to advertise/market the church, if the vote on May 3<sup>rd</sup> approves the ONA covenant.
    - Joyce and Bob explained that the committee liked the idea of a rainbow strip on the bottom of our new sign but that they felt a temporary flag/banner/sign to be displayed on special occasions (e.g. Arts on the Common) would help draw attention to the church.
    - There was a lengthy discussion regarding the pros and cons of temporary signage as well as the different types that could be used, and whether or not the new sign would be enough.
    - Joyce suggested that the church council should make the final decision regarding ONA signage.
  - The Communications Committee will meet to check into options and make recommendations at the March CC meeting. A suggestion was made to spread the word amongst the congregation that discussions regarding ONA signage are occurring now in order to encourage conversation and feedback.
  - It was also suggested that a new committee could be formed to spread the word about the new welcoming covenant.
- **Creation Justice:**
  - At their meeting they discussed books to recommend for the book club referencing environmental concerns.
  - Jen will be attending the Prepared to Serve event where Creation Justice classes are offered.
  - Susan Johonnett has been attending the PTO meetings hoping to involve the school community.

- The group is planning to create a baseline, where the church's carbon footprint is realized and then work on a plan.
- **Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC):**
  - A few pastor evaluations were received and will be reviewed at the next meeting in preparation for a presentation at the March CC meeting.

#### **New Business:**

- **Yearlong calendar:**
  - Linda brought in a large paper calendar. Dates were added for established and upcoming events for most of 2020. These dates should be added by committee members to the website calendar.
- **Theme worship services:**
  - Need publicity for the theme services.
  - Dates set for theme Sundays
    - Earth Day Friend Raiser – April 26<sup>th</sup>
    - Blessing of the Animals – May 17<sup>th</sup>
    - Biker Sunday – June 14<sup>th</sup>
    - July or August Music Theme could take place in the evening before SpireSide??
    - Robert received a list of theme ideas to schedule in the future. They will need publicity.

#### **Pastor's report:**

- ONA Bible study after church had less attending than hoped for.
- The active shooter training conversation will continue with the trustees and deacons at some point to make a plan.
- He and Mark Lang are talking about adding a "stop the bleed" kit, perhaps near the AED.
- He attended, with Dan Andrus, a class "Caring Clergy after Substance Use Disorder Death". This will help grieving families who have suffered a loss because of drug overdose.
- He will be attending Prepared to Serve on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- On March 29<sup>th</sup> there will be PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbian and Gays) presentation after church.
- Ash Wednesday service on February 26<sup>th</sup> at our church joining with St. John
- There will be a 4-week Lent study group in March on Tuesdays the 3<sup>rd</sup> thru the 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 to 7:30. Looking at each Gospel version of Jesus' last week.
- A plan is needed in case Robert can't get to his planned office hours. When he was sick, Joyce put a notice on the vestry door that he was not available.

#### **Committees:**

##### **Trustees:**

- A Facebook report shows that 584 people (in the previous year) viewed the church page and the majority age group was between 35 to 54.

***The next Church Council meeting is March 8th, after the church service.***