

Dunbarton Congregational Church
Church Council Meeting via Zoom
March 14, 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 – Anne Zeller
Stewardship – Linda Morse
Treasurer – *Absent*
Trustees – Tom Bennett
Communications – Bob Ray
Music – Lizz Ferdina
Members at Large – Barb Bennett
In Attendance – Joyce Ray, Marsha McKay, John Stevens

Opening Prayer: Pastor Robert

February Church Council minutes were approved

Pastor's Report:

- It was 366 days ago that we met in church in person. A decision was made to shut down for, hopefully, only a couple of weeks.
- It has been a busy Lent season.
 - Ash Wednesday service went well
 - There will be a Maundy Thursday service.
 - Easter morning service will be outside depending on the weather
- The church is still following the UCC Covid guidelines for reopening
 - What do we gain or lose by doing online services?
 - How do we make it work for everyone?
 - The in-church service video will continue
 - Robert is open to suggestions

Deacons:

- The deacons will be reaching out to members for Maundy Thursday readers; expect a phone call
- Joyce and Bill will drape the sign with a black cloth on Maundy Thursday afternoon, then the drape will be removed early Easter morning to reveal a message such as "Alleluia! He is Risen!"

Curios:

- Stephanie has been opening the Curios for private viewing/shopping and has made about \$200.
- The contractor has installed a new roof on both the barn and apartment building, and a new well has been dug. Still unknown what Grace plans to do with the building.
- Plans are to open the Curios beginning April 7th, with limited access, Covid precautions etc.
- There is a consideration to open on Sundays, after church service, if there are enough volunteers and approval from the council

Communications:

- Communications met and reviewed DCC's Facebook and website, and created a to-do list
- The committee will be working on mission and vision statements, taking into consideration the priorities of the church recently reviewed by the CC. Linda stated that on-line guidelines for developing statements say

that the starting point is for a church to determine its identity and priorities; the exercise the CC just completed.

- Draft statements will be presented to the council for review and input.
- Joyce asked if others voices from the church should be heard, especially those that don't have internet access. Linda stated that the draft statements could be distributed to anyone connected to the church in addition to active members, Curios volunteers etc. Barb suggested that the CC take a look at the current mission statement to think about updating.
 - "Current mission statement for reference - *To live according to God's teaching, believing in the worth of all persons, to build an Outreaching, supportive community, to foster individual spiritual growth and to provide for all ages the experience of Christian values through teaching and example.*"
- On-line guidelines for creating a mission statement say that it should be short and memorable, stating who the church is, and the vision should contain the direction of the church.

Priority questions:

- Should the mission include global concerns and should we be involved in a broader effort?
 - Our small number of people and finite amount of energy are the constraints of the church.
- What is God calling us to do?
- Can the missions committee offer the UCC initiatives for donations?
 - Lack of members on the Missions committee has impacted activities, including staying current on UCC initiatives. Anne said an effort would be made to stay on top of UCC donation opportunities, although lack of in-person worship services complicates the process.

Missions:

- 7 Easter baskets are being prepared, contact Patty Shearin to give donation. Information is in the weekly newsletter.

Trustees:

- There is no financial report at this time
- If there is going to be an outside Easter service, the yard will need to be cleaned up and someone will need to organize setting the chairs out.

Discussion:

- The weekly newsletter should include contact information.

Closing prayer

Next Church Council meeting will be April 11th at 11:00 AM via zoom.