

Dunbarton Congregational Church  
Church Council Meeting  
March 17, 2019

Present: **Moderator** – Linda Morse  
**Clerk** – Lynn Leslie  
**Pastor** Robert Vodra  
**C/E & Curios** – Stephanie Herlihy  
**Deacons** – Marsha McKay  
**Missions** – Sue Bracy  
**Stewardship & Vice-Moderator** – Jen Oliver  
**Communications** – Linda Morse & Bob Ray  
**Treasurer** – Absent  
**Trustees** – Tom Bennett  
**At Large** – Margaret Venator & Barb Bennett  
**Music** – Absent  
**Open & Affirming** – Joyce Ray  
**In attendance** – Mark Lang & Roger Rice

February minutes were accepted.

**Old Business & Updates:**

- **Bylaws:**
  - There was a discussion interpreting the wording of the Deacons' section (Article VIII, Section 6 Paragraph A, #2). Noted also, spelling error Article V, Section 4; two-third to two-thirds.
  - Approved a warrant to amend bylaws for congregational vote on April 7, 2019.
  - Hard copies will be available designating the changes.
  - Once the amended bylaws are approved, a PDF copy noting the revision date will be posted on the church website and a hard copy will be stored in a designated binder in the upstairs vestry.
- **Open & Affirming:**
  - Members of the O & A team are Carol-Ann Jane, Sandy Decknick, Joyce Ray and Bob Ray. They will meet 2 times a month.
  - April 8<sup>th</sup> they will meet with the Conference contact to discuss "Building an Inclusive Church"
  - April 6<sup>th</sup> Sandy will attend "Healing the Divide" in Manchester. Registration fee requested to be reimbursed.
  - A progress report will be presented to the council in June.
- **Purpose/Identity for DCC: Can the church become an "environmental issues" church?**
  - Jen distributed information packets about the UCC's Creation Justice program to be distributed to and discussed by each committee to determine if there's support for DCC becoming a designated "Creation Justice Church." This would become DCC's vision and purpose.
  - The handouts included the following:
    - Becoming a Creation Justice Church in Six Steps
    - What is Creation Justice and Why Does it Rock?
    - Creation Justice: Where are you called to Serve?
    - Take the UCC Environmental Justice Quiz!
    - Green Team Tips
    - Stewardship of Creation: A Thirty Day Discipline (Scripture driven)
  - The Missions committee will carry out its 2019 Environmental Education focus as planned.
  - Discussions:

- DCC will be a “Judgement Free Zone.”
  - Connect to Scripture
  - Tap into UCC’s 3 Great Loves – Love of Neighbor, Love of Children, Love of Creation
- Action Plan: Share information with committees and come back to the church council with suggestions and input. Jen will lead, coordinating with Patty Shearin from the missions committee creating a team to develop a plan and process to become a “Creation Justice Church”
- **Communications Committee:** Linda Morse, Bob Ray, Barb Bennett and Jen Oliver
  - If the Council approves moving forward with DCC becoming a Creation Justice Church, then Communications will move forward with informing all DCC members and friends of this vision.
  - Communications will develop DCC’s mission statement to be approved by the Church Council.
  - Communications and the Council committees will coordinate closely for continuity of DCC web, social media and print outreach/image information.
- **Electronic Music:**
  - A calendar is being created to run the music for Sundays when Lizz is not available
  - Barbara Daley will play the organ on April 7<sup>th</sup> and will be on-call for \$100
  - A job description is being put together
- **Pastor’s installation :** No update

#### **New Business:**

- **New day for Church Council meetings:** Second Sunday of the month
- **Thanking Donors:** The Treasurer and the Stewardship committee will work together thanking donors and will include tax information
- **Arts on the Common:**
  - Barb, Stephanie and Lynn will coordinate.
  - Shelley will help with tables?
  - A request will go out for baked goods to sell

#### **Pastor and Committee Reports:**

- **Pastor:**
  - Robert is in the office for three hours a week but available at other times if needed
  - Ash Wednesday service at St. John’s went well, small attendance; all part of building a relationship with them
  - The weekly newsletter is scheduled to go out on Thursdays, so Robert needs to have information to be included by Wednesday evening
  - Looking forward to the O & A process
- **Trustees:**
  - Pledges collected are behind by about \$2,900. (include pledge information in the bulletin; amount pledged – amount collected)
  - Fund raising is down, but that’s not unusual for this time of year
  - Expenses are in line. Maintenance budget over, due to water pump installation expense of \$2,700
  - In the fall there will be a discussion on the Christmas season fundraisers whether any changes are necessary
  - Campership breakfasts brought in \$926

- Church clean-up will be April 13<sup>th</sup>
- Discussion on vestry water containing arsenic: a reverse osmosis water filter is needed to remove arsenic. Can give it a try, although it may inhibit/reduce the water flow because there is not a lot of water pressure to begin with.
- **Christian Education:**
  - “Food for Thought” was attended by eleven people. Nice presentation by Eleanor and Phil Kimball
  - The bulletin board is ready to hang in the center of the back wall of the vestry (low enough for access by children)
- **Curios:**
  - Jackie McCarthy is taking over the vendor inventory. She is doing an incredible job, above and beyond.
- **Deacons:**
  - Maundy Thursday service will be in the vestry at 6:30. Soup makers and readers are needed. The Deacons would like to borrow some wooden crosses to put on the tables.
  - Name tags display is being worked on to make it easier to find a tag
  - Will need pulpit fill-in for two Sundays that Robert will be gone
  - Needed: Easter Lilies/flowers for Easter Sunday; a request will go out asking worshipers to bring lilies with them to church on Easter.
- **Stewardship:** no update
- **Missions:**
  - “Earth Day, Every Day” is the new catch phrase. Information and links are included in the weekly newsletter
  - On April 28<sup>th</sup> Dr. Barry Rock will speak during the service; “Cherish the Earth - There is no Planet B”. Tote bags will be given out to the first 50 in attendance.
  - Easter baskets will be packed on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Sign-up sheets will be at the back of the church.
  - The donations for One Great Hour of Sharing: basket at the back of the church or an envelope included with the bulletin?
  - Bob Ray offered a table at the NH Home Energy Expo on April 6<sup>th</sup>

**Next Church Council meeting will be April 14, 2019 after church service.**