

Dunbarton Congregational Church
Church Council Meeting
March 8, 2020

Present:

- Moderator** – Linda Morse
- Vice Moderator** – Scott Leslie
- Clerk** – absent – Margaret Venator substituted
- Pastor** Robert Vodra
- C/E & Curios** – Stephanie Herlihy
- Deacons** – Carol-Ann Jane
- Missions** – Patty Shearin
- Stewardship** – Linda Morse
- Communications** – Linda Morse & Bob Ray
- Treasurer** – *Absent*
- Trustees** – Tom Bennett
- Open & Affirming** – Joyce Ray
- At Large** – Barb Bennett & Margaret Venator
- In Attendance** – Mark Lang & Sandy Brison

Just for Fun Activity: Name something you were grateful for last week.

Opening Prayer: Linda

Updates on Old Business:

- **Open & Affirming:**
 - Joyce Ray offered her appreciation of the congregation members who attended the O & A presentations over the past months.
 - A draft of the O & A covenant was read aloud. Suggestions and ideas were discussed. Two phrases will be added. Paragraph 1 “with opportunities to know God” and paragraph 2 “or if you wish to know God better.”
 - The CC approved the covenant with the suggested changes by a unanimous vote.
 - The covenant will be sent to the UCC for acceptance.
 - When the vote takes place, it will be a closed vote (paper ballot) and an 85% approval rate will be required to pass.
- **Church Signage:**
 - Linda informed the group that the Communications Committee met to look at signage options and ideas, from the UCC website, and others as well as our sign company. Nothing was definitely planned, although a favorite idea is to place a removable rainbow stripe in the bottom text line of the sign. It could be temporarily removed if room is needed for more text. A committee should probably be formed to create a signage proposal if O & A passes. She noted that the Trustees have asked that no further holes be put into the clapboards of the front of the church.
- **Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC):**
 - Steph reviewed both the PRC evaluation and Robert’s self-evaluation. Everyone had received a copy of the documents via email previously, and there was no discussion.
 - Steph requested that the CC oversee the evaluations next year, to be done in early spring
- **Updating DCC website calendar**
 - Linda reminded everyone that the committees are responsible for posting onto the DCC calendar their events/activities that we listed on the paper calendar in the vestry.

- Robert will then attempt to copy and paste the web's list of monthly events onto the back page of the worship bulletin.
- **Arts on the Common Bake Sale – Mother's Day Weekend**
 - May 9th & 10th. DCC will host a bake sale as usual. Steph will give Robert a write up for the weekly newsletter.
 - Curios will raffle off a painting that is believed to have potential value.

Reports and Discussions:

Pastor's report:

- Attending the Newly Called Pastors group has been helpful
- "Wasted" movie night was educational
- Several church members attended the Prepared to Serve classes. They gathered after to share what each of them heard.
- Thanks to Joyce for putting the O & A committee's thoughts down to create the covenant.
- Ash Wednesday's service included St. John's parishioners in the vestry. Thanks to the readers; Joyce, Carol-Ann and Marsha.
- As the COVID-19 progresses we may need to rethink how communion is given. We also need to think about what to do if it becomes necessary to ask everyone to stay home.
- Lenten Bible study went well. The class on the 10th will start at 6:00 to allow people to attend the town meeting.

Deacons:

- Due to a small attendance at the Easter sunrise service, it was agreed there will be no service this year.

Christian Education:

- The resurrection walk will be on Palm Sunday. An invitation for school kids and their parents to join the walk was sent to the school. They will meet at the parking lot of the Everett Dam.

Trustees:

- Income is down. A negative of \$2,200 is likely for the first quarter.
- Pledge reminders will be sent out.

Missions:

- Dr. Mary Stampone, NH State Climatologist & UNH Assoc. Professor will be speaking to the congregation on Sunday, April 19th during service with her presentation "Climate Change: Here & Now in NH."
- The Missions Board is hosting a screening of "The Biggest Little Farm" on Thursday night, March 26th at 6:30 p.m. upstairs in the Vestry. Group discussion to follow.

To Do List:

1. **Stewardship will send out pledge reminder cards.**
2. **Carol-Ann, Lizz and Patty will put together a "to do" list for the Christmas concert because forming a committee will definitely be a topic at the next CC meeting.**
3. **Committees need to be sure to list their events/activities on the DCC calendar.**
4. **Trustees will set a date for the annual church cleanup.**

The next Church Council meeting is April 19th, after the church service. Note: Linda will be absent that day due to a family commitment, so Scott will be leading the meeting.