

Dunbarton Congregational Church
Church Council Meeting
April 14, 2019

Present: **Moderator** – Linda Morse
Clerk – Lynn Leslie
Pastor Robert Vodra
C/E & Curios – Stephanie Herlihy
Deacons – Joyce Ray & Roger Rice
Missions – Patty Shearin
Stewardship – Linda Morse
Communications – Linda Morse & Bob Ray
Treasurer – Absent
Trustees – Mike Shearin
At Large – Margaret Venator & Barb Bennett
Music – Lizz Ferdina
Open & Affirming – Joyce Ray & Bob Ray

March minutes were accepted.

Discussions:

- **Arts of the Common:**
 - Stephanie Herlihy is the contact person. A sign-up sheet will be put in the church for 3 hour shifts on May 11th & 12th from 10 am to 4 pm
- **Maundy Thursday service:**
 - 6:30 on April 18th in the vestry. Wooden crosses are still needed.
- **Easter Services:**
 - Asking for flowers to display Easter morning
 - Sunrise service will be at 5:45 am. Breakfast prepared by the Trustees will follow the service.
- **Pastor Robert's Installation:**
 - June 2nd at 2 pm
 - Invitation will go out to members and friends about a month before. Invitations will be created by Linda with several volunteers to help address, stamp and stuff
 - Refreshments will be offered after the ceremony in the sanctuary
 - Linda inquired about a billing account for the printing of the invitations at Capitol Copy
- **Electronic Music:**
 - A sign-up sheet is with Carol-Ann
 - Coverage is needed for Mother's Day
 - Users of the music board now have a "mouse" to use
- **Thanking donors:**
 - The treasurer will pass information to the stewardship committee to send out thank-you notes. Tax ID information will be included

- **Purpose/Identity for DCC – Creation Justice – Earth Stewardship**

Committee representatives reported on whether or not their groups favored using the UCC's Creation Justice/environmental initiative as a basis for a vision for DCC, and there was general agreement regarding moving forward with this idea. However, there was serious concern expressed regarding how to keep the initiative, and DCC, from becoming political, and the Council recognized the need to "rise above" politics and remain strongly theologically based and nonjudgmental. Care will also have to be taken to insure that DCC doesn't become known for only one thing. The Mission Statement will have to be written carefully. A suggestion was made to take the Justice Creation program and make it our own, and this idea was well received by all. Comments included the following:

- DCC needs to stand for something, although care needs to be taken regarding the approach. Everyone needs to be heard.
- DCC must remain an inclusive church.
- DCC would need to accept a set of Creation Justice values, but individuals could choose how they want to carry out those values. Activism would not be an expectation. People cannot be judged by their participation or lack thereof.
- A request was made to add a limited access web page to the DCC website to be used as a place to post Creation Justice and environmental information.
- Keeping the political tendency under control could be done by developing a set of fundamental principles, or "rules of the road", to follow.
- A "Green Team" can be formed in the fall to focus on moving the vision process forward.

Action Item: The Council then asked the committees to meet and discuss possible fundamental principles to be presented at the next CC meeting.

- **Open & Affirming:**

- Michael Denny, (NH Conference UCC ONA facilitator) met with the committee. Previous congregational assessment information agrees with the current assessment that they should continue at a moderate pace. There are 12 steps to a vote and the committee is currently on step 5; building relationships and seeking opinions of each member. Several small group discussion meetings will take place with the congregation, looking for input to determine the direction of education in the fall. Members who cannot attend one of the meetings will be contacted in an effort to hear all concerns and questions.
- The first group discussion will be held at a Food for Thought originally scheduled for June 1st, but postponed until September due to scheduling conflicts, although small group meetings are being planned for this spring. Date and times to be announced.

Pastor and Committee Reports:

- **Pastor**

- This is a busy week. Robert will be at the Trustees meeting on Wednesday. Maundy Thursday service on the 18th and two services on Easter.
- No office hours this coming week, but he can be contacted through email, text or phone call.

- **Trustees:**

- Filter for the water hopefully will be installed by the upcoming Spireside this Saturday

- **Deacons:**

- Bill Morse is making a new board for name tags.

Next Church Council meeting will be May 19, 2019 after church service.