

Dunbarton Congregational Church  
Church Council Meeting  
May 19, 2019

Present:       **Moderator** – Linda Morse  
                  **Clerk** – Lynn Leslie  
                  **Pastor** Robert Vodra  
                  **C/E & Curios** – Stephanie Herlihy  
                  **Deacons** – Carol Ann Jane  
                  **Missions** – Anne Zeller  
                  **Stewardship** – Linda Morse  
                  **Communications** – Linda Morse / Bob Ray / Jen Oliver  
                  **Treasurer** – Absent  
                  **Trustees** – Dean Bacon  
                  **At Large** – Margaret Venator  
                  **Music** – Absent  
                  **Open & Affirming** – Carol Ann Jane

April minutes were accepted.

**Discussions:**

- **Open & Affirming:**
  - The first discussion group meeting for congregation members was held at the Rays' house, five people attended.
  - The next discussion group meeting will be held at the Zellers' on Tuesday the 21st at 7 pm
  - The committee listened to a webinar that was very helpful. It showed the process of becoming an O&A church.
  - The committee is looking for speakers to share their experiences.
  - The Food for Thought topic in September will be O&A
- **Creation Justice:**
  - A draft of the Fundamental Principles was distributed to the council for discussion. Comments below:
    - The relationship between Social Justice and Creation Justice was discussed and clarified and will need continual explanation.
    - Scripture and Stewardship of the Earth is the basis of Creation Justice
    - The list of fundamental principles is an ongoing project and open for further suggestions. Once a final version is established, the CC will approve it and a Creation Justice committee will begin meeting in the fall to develop a process to be a Creation Justice Church.
    - Becoming a UCC Creation Justice Church can take one to two years; much like the O&A process, with forums for discussion and education. Ultimately the covenant would involve stating what we say we'll do, what we actually do and what are the results.
    - Input was received and Linda will send out an updated version for committees to review.
- **Installation: June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 pm**
  - Robert will verify with the Conference that they have the correct time for June 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Refreshments will be provided by church members and friends
  - The deacons, trustees and search committee will be responsible for set up

- **Communications: members are Linda Morse, Barb Bennett, Bob Ray, Jen Oliver & Pastor Robert**
  - A resource outline was handed out to council members identifying the current communications medium, the audience, administrator and rating the current quality of the medium.
  - ⊖ The committee's intent is to develop a marketing communication strategy to coordinate DCC's marketing and outreach efforts and to ultimately develop a new mission statement.
  - Bob is modifying the website and developing a "how to" procedure for updating the website so that individual committee members have access to keep their information current.
  - Other websites will be viewed for ideas to apply to DCC website
  - Barb Bennett is going to set up an account with Capitol Copy for printed media
  - Church sign update: the communications committee will follow through on completing the necessary requirements and pricing of sign to bring to the church council for approval. (Margaret Venator has offered granite posts she has available at her house if they are the right size)

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

- **Pastor**
  - Robert had his first "Blessing of the Animals". (33 people, 6 dogs and a rabbit)
  - He's catching up since Easter.
- **Missions:**
  - June 1<sup>st</sup> is the roadside clean-up. More volunteers would be helpful
  - "People of Faith as Climate Messengers" will be presented again at the vestry on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. St. Johns congregation will be invited.
  - Seeking another speaker to be included during a service similar to Barry Rock, on climate change
- **Trustees:**
  - April finances were ahead. Year to date is behind
  - The drinking water faucet in the kitchen has been installed. There was a mention that it was making a "clicking" sound. It will be checked.
  - Another statement for church and vestry pledges will go out to members, but probably not until later this year.
  - Vestry capital improvement pledges did not meet the total expense of the renovation. Should start communicating with members that there is a need to make up the difference.
  - Pledge information will be given to Robert to include in the bulletin. (Current money pledged vs collected)
  - Windows will be installed before the winter. Tom Bennett is in the process of measuring and ordering.
- **C/E:**
  - Children's Sunday will be June 9<sup>th</sup> with an ice cream social to follow. Two 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will receive a children's Bible, one 6<sup>th</sup> grader will receive a necklace and one senior will receive an engraved Bible.
  - September 14<sup>th</sup> will be a Food for Thought, topic: Open & Affirming.
- **Curios:**
  - The Curios made \$450 during "Arts on The Common" weekend
- **Deacons:**
  - A fee schedule for weddings and funerals has been updated
  - Communion from now on will be totally gluten free
  - The contact information for Pastor Robert will be placed where it is more visible in the bulletin
  - The deacons support Creation Justice as it remains with Christian focus
  - Carol Ann is posting a calendar in the narthex indicating all meetings and events

- **Arts on the Common Bake Sale**
  - *New information: the bake sale raised \$777.25 over the weekend.*

**Next Church Council meeting will be June 16, 2019 after church service.**