

Dunbarton Congregational Church
Church Council Meeting via Zoom
July 12, 2020

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 – Jen Oliver
Communications – Linda Morse
Treasurer – *Absent*
Trustees – Scott Leslie
Open & Affirming – Joyce & Bob Ray
Pastoral Relations Committee – Joyce Ray
Music – Lizz Ferdina
At Large – Barb Bennett

Opening Prayer: Pastor Robert

Church council minutes were approved for June

New Business:

- **Open and Affirming certification:**
 - Joyce explained that the Open & Affirming Coalition accepted our covenant and it would take a couple of weeks to receive the certificate. Pastor Robert will announce at the conference meeting that DCC has been certified as an ONA church. Once the church is open again a celebration will be planned.
 - The rainbow stripe, which can be inserted into one line on each side of the sign, was approved at \$270, including a rainbow stripe on the church building under the sign. This money is available from the ONA committee.
 - It was questioned whether the sign, in case of accident, will be covered by the church's insurance. Scott will check.
- **Reopening the church:**
 - The deacons mentioned that the members they spoke with miss seeing everyone and having one on one contact. Several said they missed the sermons and music.
 - Discussion included:
 - Outdoor service
 - Double service – online and live
 - Shorter service
 - A reopening group will meet in August with more updated information about COVID-19. Members of the group will be at least Pastor Robert, Mark Lang, Tammy Bowne, and Carol-Ann Jane. Lizz will be keeping in touch.

- **Curios – when to open:**
 - When Stephanie met with Jackie McCarthy and Enid Larsen at the Curios, they felt that the opening should wait until the church opens. At this time, they felt it was not worth the risk.
- **Racial Justice discussion:**
 - A discussion on where DCC might fit in. All agreed to find ways to generate conversation. Books and the Book Club are a start. Recommended books:
 - Time magazine articles
 - *So You Want to Talk About Race*
 - *White Fragility*
 - *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* currently part of a discussion group at the NH Council of Churches (This is a tough read)
- **Pastoral Relations Committee:**
 - Pastors are learning a whole new way of presenting sermons during the pandemic. It has been suggested that pastors are given an additional week of vacation to “recharge”.
 - UCC has recorded services that can be used, or partner with another church.
 - Robert will get together with the deacons to determine when and how
- **Pastor Robert:**
 - Thanks to Lizz for the music and everyone for their support. He misses the personal interaction but wants to make sure it is safe for everyone before starting live services again.
- **Christmas Concert:** The live concert is not going to happen this year but Lizz is still thinking about a virtual concert and welcomes any ideas about that.

Discussions:

- Let’s have several sign wordings ready and available to change weekly. This will assure the community that we are alive and still actively reaching out to everyone.
- Prayer flags will remain up for a while longer. Maybe record the prayers on the flags and use some on the sign if appropriate.
- Jen Oliver will be stepping away from the church but will keep in touch through the book club and other activities.
- A suggestion was for Robert to host small group gatherings. He will consider.

To Do:

1. Scott will check that the sign is covered under our insurance.
2. The rainbow stripes will be ordered.
3. Reopening/safety group will meet before our next council meeting to make recommendations.
4. Change church signage

The next council meeting will be August 30th via zoom at 11:00 am.