

Dunbarton Congregational Church
Church Council Meeting
August 8, 2021

Present:

Moderator – Linda Morse
Vice Moderator – Scott Leslie
Clerk – Lynn Leslie
Pastor – Robert Vodra
C/E & Curios – Stephanie Herlihy
Deacons – Carol-Ann Jane
Missions – Patty Shearin
Stewardship – Linda Morse
Treasurer – *Absent*
Trustees – Scott Leslie
Communications – Linda Morse
Music – *Absent*
Members at Large – *Absent*
In attendance – John Stevens

Opening Prayer: Pastor Robert

June Church Council minutes were discussed with no corrections required

Pastor's Report:

- Good to be back. He is concerned about attendance, but it is not unusual as attendance is still down during this pandemic.
- Questions the need to continue to video the service. Will continue at least during the summer months.

In person worship regarding the Delta variant:

- We will continue to monitor cases week by week and CDC requirements

Old Home Day Bake Sale:

- Stephanie needs a cash box. She will use her own cash for startup and reimburse herself from the sales amount.
- We will set up at 9 am.
- Carol-Ann will help for the morning shift. Linda will send out an email asking for volunteers. Two shifts: 9-12 and 12-3.

Curios:

- All is going well. The August volunteer schedule is almost filled.
- Stephanie will approach Grace Burchell (the owner of the building) to ask for reimbursement of the phone charge of \$75 caused by the contractor cutting the wires during renovations.
- The Curios volunteers met to review concerns and procedures to assure everyone is up to date.
- During Old Home Days the Curios will be well manned. Table will be set up outside with merchandise for sale.
- There may be enough money for a transfer to the church account.
- New Curios business cards will be made up to hand out.
- Stephanie commented that the newly installed air conditioner is not powerful enough to keep the store cool. The store remained at 80 degrees on a recent afternoon.

Mission Statement:

- The communications committee met on July 28th to develop the wording for the mission statement. Two draft mission statements were presented to the council for discussion and after editing were approved:
 - *"We are a faith centered Christian church, welcoming everyone, living by faith, rooted in community, and acting as a voice of hope to the world."*
 - *"We are a faith centered Christian church, welcoming everyone, living in God's grace, rooted in community, and a voice of hope to the world."*
- It was decided that both statements would be distributed to all committee members for wider review, then ultimately one statement will be approved at the September CC meeting. The congregation will vote on the final statement at the January Annual Meeting.
- The Communications Committee also drafted a vision statement, but it may need further review to be sure the language covers all of DCC's priorities and interests:
 - The vision statement is as follows: *To grow in our understanding of who God is and how we are called to be in a relationship with God, each other, and all of God's creation.*

Deacons:

- Volunteers are needed to set the church up for worship when Carol-Ann isn't available, since the rest of the committee is away during the summer. (Mark, a volunteer Deacon, helps when his schedule permits.) She will not be available on Sept. 5th & 12th. Stephanie volunteered to help on those days, along with covering music.
- "Rally Day" will be on Sept. 19th. Stay tuned for more info.

Missions:

- The next roadside cleanup is August 28th at 9 am
- The VNA will be at the vestry for flu shots on November 2nd from 9 to 11 am
- As the missions' ongoing "Earth Day, Every Day" incentive, Patty has researched an eco-friendly laundry detergent product called Earth Breeze, which are dissolvable fabric sheets packaged in cardboard (no plastic). She will offer samples to church members and possibly set up a table at Old Home Days for display. For questions, Contact Patty Shearin or go to Earthbreeze.com

Discussions:

- The church lighting at the podium and the narthex is dim. Scott will check and see if anything can be done.
- AA meetings are Tuesday nights from about 6:45 to 8:15 pm (including clean-up). They are supplying all of their own supplies (coffee maker, coffee, cups, etc.). There are two containers with their supplies that will be stored in the corner of the vestry.
- The church sign should show any events held by the church, such as Ladies' Game Night and the Bake Sale at Old Home Days.
- The newsletter should supply contact information or "reply to this email if there are questions". And indicate somewhere in the newsletter the name of the DCC pastor.
- The need for senior transportation in Dunbarton was brought up, due to a request to us from the town welfare agent for rides for an elderly individual. All agreed that the town should address the problem, but perhaps there's a way we could assist. Will discuss more in the future.

Closing prayer: Pastor Robert

The next church council meeting will be September 12th after church service in the vestry.