

# First Parish Church Council Meeting

2/20/19- 7:00 pm

**Attendees:** Pastor Deborah, Anne-Marie Merrill -CE, John Bartel – Member at Large, Melanie Van Steensburg – Mission, Nominating, Task Force, Margie Ives – Stewardship, Fred Merrill – Moderator, Anne Englehardt -Assistant Moderator, Dee Deranian -Facilities, Ryan Lehoullier – Diaconate, Cathy Pottle – Member at Large, Cathy Zylinski – Personnel.

**Absent:** Becky Fleury

**Guests:** Alan Pawl – Task Force, Beth Hunter -Task Force, Melanie Pawl -Mission, Paul Lindemann -Historic Preservation, BAC, Friends of the Meeting House.

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Deborah

**Meeting Minutes:** January 16, 2019

Voted on the minutes of the Meeting as corrected. Anne Englehardt made the motion and Ryan Lehoullier, seconded it. All in favor. Approved.

**Nominations:** Melanie Van Steensburg

Mission board:

Fred Bates and Sharon Hartmann asked to be taken off Mission Board. Melanie Pawl asked to be added. Melanie Van Steensburg made a motion and Ryan Lehoullier, seconded. All in favor. Approved.

Fred and Carol Bates are withdrawing their membership and going back to the Episcopal Church. Fred Merrill said we would send them a letter thanking them for their service to the church.

**Request for “Review the Bylaws Committee”** – Fred Merrill asked for volunteers for this committee. Ryan Lehoullier, John Bartel, Cathy Zylinski, Anne Engelhardt volunteered.

Charter by the council: to review the by laws and make suggestions to the council – we can open it up to anyone, but need be aware of time commitment of at least 6 months.

**TASK FORCE UPDATE:** Melanie Van Steensburg shared a statement to Council on behalf of the Task Force asking the council for feedback.

Fred Merrill asked the council members to share their thoughts about what they thought the Task Force charter was.

Cathy Zylinski – Help the church members to communicate more respectfully with each other when disagreements arise. Behavior Covenant should be the focus.

Anne-Marie Merrill– heal the church and the covenant.

John Bartel – asked about the letter that went out -handwritten by Marge Palmer. Behavior covenant should be the focus. Do people understand what a covenant means -following a certain teaching of Jesus?

Melanie-Van Steensburg - Marge’s letter was beautiful and focused on the committee’s people served on. Task Force should focus on all three.

Pastor Deborah – move forward with the work that Dr. Reynolds started. The behavior covenant should be the focus.

Fred Merrill - Marge Palmer 's letter was good– follow up on communications -training – behavior covenant should be the focus.

Cathy Pottle – the behavior covenant and communicate with each other – not go around each one to be.

Anne Engelhardt – the task force where do we go from here after the annual meeting – what do we want our church to be – communications -boundaries – strategic plan. We needed to put a foundation in first – a behavior covenant – communication event – strategic plan

Dee Deranian - communication – behavior covenant should be focus. Anything we can do to prevent a reoccurrence.

Ryan Lehoullier – moving forward in healthy and effective communication – living as we are charged in the bible. Agrees that behavior covenant and strategic plan are plan. Trying to move forward - supporting the people who were still here.

Fred Merrill – we gave the task force a very vague charge to plan to move forward. Focus should be on moving forward – welcome all but not focus so much on the past.

Alan Pawl – move forward to create an environment that will allow the church to move forward and not repeat the mistakes of the past. We as a task force made the decision that this was the way to go. The behavior covenant was a proposed document – open to discussion. The task was to move the church forward not to keep going back.

Beth Hunter -Moving Forward Task Force – behavior covenant -strategic planning – get the foundation so we can move forward communicating in an effective way. Invite people who want to be on the committee.

Melanie Pawl – I questioned whether this is my church because of the unrest. It is important that all are welcome, but we need to move forward – behavior covenant.

Paul Lindemann – should focus on areas that had led to concerns – Ministry of Care is example of what we have done to address this one area.

Fred Merrill–Can we agree that the Task Force Charter is – Focus is on moving forward, creating the behavior covenant, behavior model and communication as well as a strategic plan for the church?

All members agreed.

### **Financial Statements -**

Deficits of \$8,858.27– we prepaid insurance, oil, snow plowing. Becky Fleury shared with Fred Merrill that this not uncommon at this time of year due to oil, snow plowing, and we have already paid property tax for the full year.

### **Friends of the Meeting House:**

Kevin Gordon has been voted onto the board – one seat open.

Paul Lindeman – shared all the activities for Founder's Weekend – April 12-14<sup>th</sup>. Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup> is crane day – 7 am. The bell will go back up in the Belfry.

Paul Lindeman reviewed the finances for preservation work. Rehab funds are needed almost \$63,000. We will need to pay attention to cash flow from LCHIP.

Some options were discussed – Adding to the Loan –increase the loan from \$2,050 to \$2,368 a month. Investments – Facilities Capital Campaign Money.

Council already agreed to allow them to use the loan as needed for the Tower. This will carry us to May.

We need the commitment from council in order to sign the contract for the tower. Fred Merrill– we need an assurance from the Friends of the Meeting House that if we gave them the Facility Money they won't spend anymore until we have received the funds back.

Anne Englehardt asked that we look at how much money that we make on our investment's vs adding to the loan when we come to that point.

Ryan Lehoullier asked about the Facilities money and whether they completed the HVAC system.

Dee Deranian –the remaining money is largely an emergency fund.

Paul Lindeman – we need a commitment to continue the project. We do have a second extension from the LCHIP people -they have been very supportive, but we need to continue, or we will be asked to give the money back.

Fred Merrill– if we pull out of the investment fund, I would want to put the money back in as soon as fund raising comes in.

Anne-Marie Merrill– If you pull it out of the investments does this impact groups that receive money on a rotating basis?

Fred Merrill – no this is investment that is open.

Ryan Lehoullier – made a motion to use these resources (Loan, Facilities, Investments) to cover these expenses so we don't have to pay back the LCHIP funding. Dee Deranian made a second. All in favor. All agreed.

Weather Vane – needs some work - \$3-\$5k Found a gold leaf donor (\$900) – if we could find the funding now, we don't have to have another crane. Should it be re-gilded or just put back up there? Council agreed that we won't pay for this but if the Friends can find someone to re-gild it that is fine.

Next Month we will start discussion about a capital campaign.

### **Pastor's Report – Pastor Deborah provided her written report.**

We do have some former Pastors coming to the Founder's Weekend worship services. There will be Ecumenical Interfaith Service at 1:00 pm.

### **Round Table –**

Melanie Van Steensburg - Mission – new respect for the work Council does. Hope to have new members soon.

John Bartel– no news today.

Margie Ives – KIT update – Game night after spaghetti dinner.

Cathy Zylinski -Personnel – We will be meeting to discuss Music position.

Ryan Lehoullier – Diaconate - we need members only have 5. We are doing our best but will need help.

Anne-Marie Merrill – Christian Education - Jamie Robinson is doing a project for Homeless Pinkerton Teens. Met with Diaconate for Intergenerational Sundays

**Closing Prayer**

**Meeting Ended at 8:07 p.m.**