

# **First Parish Church Council Meeting**

## **March 19, 2019 7:00 pm**

**Attendees:** Pastor Deborah, Anne-Marie Merrill-CE, John Bartel-Member at Large, Margie Ives-Stewardship, Fred Merrill-Moderator, Anne Englehardt-Assistant Moderator, Dee Deranian-Facilities, Ryan Lehoullier-Diaconete, Cathy Zylinski-Personnel, Cynthia Gray-Clerk, Reni Harnden-Member at Large, Becky Fleury-Treasurer.

**Absent:** Cathy Pottle

**Guests:** Alan Pawl-Task Force, Beth Hunter-Mission

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Deborah

**Meeting Minutes:** Review Of Minutes of February 20, 2019 Accepted with Revisions. First by Ryan, Second by John. Unanimous vote. Anne asked that we try to get the minutes out in two weeks time as a draft and that people can respond before the meeting. Cyndi responded she will try to accomplish this.

**Task Force:** Cathy spoke to the work of the Task Force (See Minutes) chaired by Randy Brown. Fred encourages anyone to attend. Next meeting is March 25.

**Sabbatical Proposal:** Discussion about proposal to help fund Pastor's sabbatical. Many members present and many congregational members have voiced positive remarks. Linda Weber and Julie Turner have volunteered to write the congregational letter. The deadline is April 11 and we will hear this summer if we are to receive it. This sabbatical would be for summer 2020. If we do not receive it, Deborah will modify her plans.

**Action item:** Pastor Deborah to keep Council informed.

**Financial Statements:** Becky went over the Balance Sheet and Budget Sheets YTD. Pledges and plate offerings are a little behind. Expenses are in line. Early estimation of Vendor Bingo is \$1800. Another one is planned for the fall. A formal vote was taken after previous poll via email to move \$40,000 line of credit to the Phase 6 payment of the tower project. First by Becky and second by Margie. Unanimous approval.

**Action Item:** None, continual updates.

**By Laws Review Committee:** Anne informs Council that this committee is meeting next week. Their plan is to divide up the by-laws and send to the appropriate chairs for review. They would propose that these reviews and comments would be back by late spring and to Council this summer. It was asked if the Restructuring Committee would be in conflict and Fred stated that is not an obstacle.

**Action item:** Continued updates as they arise.

**Rehabilitation:** BAC report submitted by Paul Lindemann. See notes in church office. Beth reported that there is a fundraising event April 4 at the Upper Village hall for the Friends of the Meeting House. Among other speakers Aaron Sturgis will present updates on the project. There also is Nutfield 300th Family reunion to occur. Invitations have been sent out to 75 guests and order forms were given to Council members.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Deborah asked us to remember some of our flock who need our prayers. This Wednesday Lenten service food will be provided by CE Board. Deborah is also asking the Rockingham Association to have Debbie Gline Allen be permitted as Minister of Christian Education.

**Action Item:** Pastor Deborah will report back on the progress of this title change for Debbie.

The bulk of the Pastors Report was previously presented under the Sabbatical headline.

## **Round Table:**

Cathy reported that personnel is looking at the Music Director position.

Anne Englehardt-nothing further.

Anne-Marie Merrill informs Council that we have some IT issues. It appears all computers are out of date and people are using their personal lap tops when needed. Becky agrees that we have fallen behind on upgrades.

**Action Item:** Deborah will delve into this and make a proposal at the next meeting.

VCS is the week of July 15.

Christine Lehoullier will finish up her certification this year and will be presenting Safe Church recommendations and report in the fall.

John Bartel-none

Margie Ives asked if the Peace Pole could be repaired in time for the 300th.

**Action Item:** Dee will look into it.

Margie is working with the town for Living Treasures; people over age 70 who are still active in the community, not church participants. There will be an overview of this May 18 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

Sonshine Soup Kitchen gala is April 4.

Marge Palmer presented a very funny vignette at the last KIT meeting on aging and Margie would like to see this given to other persons who might be interested.

Savers clothing drive going very well. All items are due April 5.

Margie requests that we consider using real silverware for the Lenten dinners in an effort to lessen our carbon footprint on the world.

Ryan speaking for Deacons that they still have scheduling issues with only 5 members. Many people at Council volunteered to help.

Dee brought forth a name for a member of the Facilities Board. Alan Pawl was nominated by Beth Hunter as a representative of the Nominating committee. His name was placed by Becky with a second by Dee and a unanimous vote was taken. Beth will send an email to the members. Facilities is looking into replacing the oil tank soon. A new sidewalk is needed. If you have any names please let Dee know.

Beth is the new chair of Missions and Kathy Holland will be the new secretary.

Cathy Zylinski spoke of the fundraising activities. They are looking at a Mothers Day breakfast. Dining for Dollars will be returning soon. Assistance is needed for the Founders Day luncheon and the monies earned will go to the general fund. Nancy Heywood is working on this.

Ministry of Care is off to a great start; sending out lots of cards and providing dinner once a week to a church family.

Fred asks us to begin to think how we can raise more money for the capital campaign. We have much work to do yet that has no concrete finances allotted to it. Obviously, we also need strong congregational support.

Closing prayer by Deborah at 8:45

**Next Meeting:** April 23, 2019 7:00 pm