

First Parish Church Council meeting December 18, 2019

Fred Merrill-Moderator, Anne Engelhardt-Assistant Moderator, Dee Deranian-Facilities, Beth Hunter-Missions, Cynthia Gray-Clerk, Sue Lindemann-Diaconate, Becky Fleury-Treasurer, Margie Ives-Stewardship, Carol Guerrin-Personnel, Cathy Pottle, Member at Large, Rev Deborah Roof

Absent: Anne Marie Merrill, Reni Harnden

Opening Prayer: Pastor Deborah

Meeting Minutes: November minutes were reviewed and approved with correction.

Bylaws review: Discussion ensued on Article V with a few changes proposed. Of note, Article VI is removed entirely and numbering changed appropriately. In return, under Section 2 parentheses noting Article VI was also removed. Under Section 1 Worship 3D the word "trained" parliamentarian was removed.

Action item: Anne has noted all changes in her official draft. New bylaws proposal will be sent out and discussed at a congregational meeting in January.

Pastor Deborah's request for study leave: Pastor Deborah clarified her combined vacation time and study leave time that occurred last month. She had discussed this with Cathy Z and it was approved but not communicated. No action needed.

Girl Scouts request: The First Parish Girl Scout troop has requested to sell cookies in the foyer and are seeking permission to do so. It was agreed they could do this for 6 weeks.

Action item: Fred will communicate this to Chris Cox.

Financials: Building Rehab Income and Expenses presented. Next LCHIP of \$31,000 should be submitted soon. Balance sheet: stable. Still a question where the Mission money is supposed to go since the trip was cancelled.

Action Item: Mission needs to clarify this for the next meeting.

FPC Income and Expenses: We are close to our proposed deficit budget. Multiple concerns on the recent Servpro bill and who was responsible for the flooding that took place. Question on the computer purchases that Ryan was working on. Has this taken place yet? Question on the proceeds of the Santa breakfast. Where is this money supposed to go?

Action items: Fred and Dee will meet with the Servpro people.

Becky will talk with Karen Wilson about the Santa breakfast funds. Becky or Deborah will get in touch with Ryan.

Next years draft budget was reviewed. Informational meetings need to be set up.

Action item: Informational budget meetings to be held after church January 5 and 19. Bylaws proposed changes will also be available. Decision also made to post Annual Meeting as January 26.

Pastors report: Submitted. Christmas Eve services set for 4:00 and 7:00. We will try for the Lilly Grant again and January 12 there will be a meeting after church to organize some thoughts so that we might be successful this time.

Round Table:

Beth commented that there was no Mission meeting in December but highlighted some of the great congregational responses with the Thanksgiving baskets and the Christmas gifts for needy families. She also gave out copies of the Nominating Committee's slate for positions coming up and asking for help and suggestions. Christmas envelopes will be coming out this Sunday and Christmas Eve and December 29.

Margie commented on the great teamwork of the Breakfast with Santa. She also reported they had a great KIT meeting. She clarified the date and time for Sonshine Soup Kitchen in December and is going to push for more pledge cards to come in.

Cathy Pottle happily reported that Sugarplum Fair is done and the bricks are done. A couple needed replacements. Huge thanks to Cathy for all her work.

Dee was asked about the proposal that we enter into a preservation timber plan for long term maintenance. This would cost about \$25,000 per year and it was decided that Becky will put this in the budget so that the congregation can be made aware of this need.

Sue Lindemann stated that the Deacons were meeting tomorrow night. Becky asked about Deborah going on Medicare at her next birthday. Off line discussion to be held.

Fred stated that he knows of items for the Annual meeting but asked that, if anyone hears of anything that needs to be added, that they let him know. Deborah added that she had a profitable meeting with United Way representative who outline that they are interested in helping non profits with projects. After this, UW spoke with Eversource who managed to work with a tree company and trees in front that were of concern were removed saving the church added expenditures.

Pastor Deborah closed with a prayer at 8:35 p.m.

Next Meeting: January 15 at 7:00 pm