

First Parish Church Council meeting April 15, 2020 (Zoom meeting)

7:00 PM

Fred Merrill-Moderator, Anne Engelhardt-Assistant Moderator, Dee Deranian-Facilities, Beth Hunter-Missions, Cynthia Gray-Clerk, Sue Lindemann-Diaconate, Becky Fleury-Treasurer, Carol Guerrin-Personnel, Cathy Pottle, Member at Large, Rev Doctor Deborah Roof, Anne Marie Merrill, Member at Large, Reni Harnden, Member at Large, Cathy Zylinski, Personnel, Paula Robinson, CE

Guest: Christine Lehoullier, Margie Ives

Opening Prayer: Cathy Zylinski

Meeting Minutes: February minutes will be reviewed at the May meeting. There was no March meeting due to Covid.

Return to Sanctuary Initiative: Due to Covid outbreak the letter voted on in March was put on hold. After a discussion it was agreed that the letter would be updated and sent out May 1st or thereabouts. Out of this discussion also there was a concern about our members who may be in need of money or food. It was suggested that we put out an eblast this Friday and every Friday. The Pastor's Discretionary Fund has \$1,000 and any donations could be contributed through this line item.

Action item: Campaign committee will update the letter and Deborah and Michelle would construct the needs initiative that is open to anyone to either contribute or ask for assistance.

Financials: Fred spoke to the PPP loan and explained he had applied to receive \$27,000 next week from the federal government. This will, in turn, if approved, free up some budget monies which will be another subject in the future. Also, the principal on the mortgage has been deferred for three months.

Building Rehab Income and Expenses presented by Becky. We have \$16,000 for the elevator and \$30,00 for other rehab fund. Also, there is \$4,400 that has not arrived from the Methuen Tree Festival.

Balance Fund Income and Expenses is negative \$10,288. Dee discussed that the church is saving some money by not being open, specifically electricity is down. Also they found cheaper oil prices with another company and Facilities is having Servpro do other work that would have otherwise been delayed.

Action Item: None immediately though we will need new budget discussion whence our current pandemic situation is more final.

Finance Committee proposes a project team to form to assist concurrently with Renovation project. They feel that a group of representatives working collaboratively will be very positive. That group will consist of at least one member of BAC, FOM, Council, Finance, Facilities and Campaign group. Anne Marie, Cyndi, Margie and Sue will represent Council since they were present at the previous meeting. This motion was presented by Margie and seconded by Cyndi and passed.

Council needs to vote to authorize Fred to sign the Bank documents to get the stimulus money. Cathy Z proposed same, Sue seconded and motion passed.

Pastors report: Submitted.

Round Table:

Anne Marie kudos to staff for virtual meetings and services during this crisis.

Dee states the new oil tanks were installed and on line. The next question is what to do with the old one-fill in with dirt or have it removed entirely.

Cathy Z adds thanks to the staff and to the Breedens for all their help in keeping our church beautiful and functioning as best we can during this time.

Cathy Pottle agreed with the kudos and the feeling of staying connected.

Sue asked how we all felt about having communion at home on Palm

Sunday. Deacons are reviewing services and how to make as normal as

possible. They are also volunteering to be readers but anyone can let Deborah know if they are interested.

Paula discussed VBS for the summer program. Literature has been ordered though it remains to be seen if it will be virtual or in person.

Weekly children's messages are occurring via Zoom. Christine is thinking about activities to do during April vacation.

Margie Ives asking about Wonder Wednesdays in April. Deborah said they would occur and that there will be Tuesday Bible studies.

Cyndi asked if the church's insurance was actually raised and it was answered that unfortunately it is showing a 25% increase over this year.

Becky stated that she thought the church would receive the monetary gift left by Ken Gould soon.

Carol Guerrin reported that she liked Zoom and so appreciated all the support the church was able to give to all parishioners during this time.

Fred reviewed the LCHIP document that was sent out previously. This is mandatory per our agreement with the State. No discussion.

Pastor Deborah closed with a prayer at 8:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 20 at 7:00 pm