

Council Meeting – November 2, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm

Attendees:

Mary Crawford

Rev Bernard

Rev Thomas

Andrew Cummings

Bayard Dodge

Jordan Coursen

Calvin Mew

John Moran

Kurt Schreder

Walter McCullough

Mary Peniston

Taffy Miller

Tara Quist

Shivanthi Edwards

We read the church covenant and Bernard led us in an opening prayer.

Minutes of last month's meeting were approved and seconded.

Minister's Report

The current confirmation class has met 3 times, Thomas is enjoying getting to know them.

The "Coalition of families" group is meeting periodically in Weston; Thomas is a part of this. The NE conference of UCC has raised over \$200,000 and used that toward abolishing debt.

Stewardship

2020 revenues should fall in line with expectations. 2021 campaign kicked off 2 weeks ago, it appears to be a slower start than usual. 20 pledges have been received so far, David and Jordan will be following up with phone calls and mailings.

Treasurer's Report

Pledges to date are tracking well. We are down about 61K from last year's expenses, operating surplus of 31K through the end of October.

The PPE loan was forgiven, kudos to Andrew for making this happen. We plan to take advantage of any future such assistance from the government.

Administrator's Report

We are looking to install an air purifying system. Andrew is working with trustees on a long-range capital improvement project.

Calvin discussed the possibility of building out the attic space above the parish hall to provide for 2 studio apartments. A subcommittee of the Trustees will make a recommendation. Bottom line – does Norfield want to be in the business of providing low-cost housing? There was clarification that this does not affect our tax-exempt status.

Norfield Reimagined

The lawn services have been a great success, thanks to all the staff and volunteers. Tara summarized the meeting that was held with Deacon chairs and the Norfield Reimagined subgroup. Overall, there was disagreement about the possibility of having indoor services. This needs to be addressed as we plan for Xmas services next month. Council will revisit this topic at the next meeting.

CE/Fellowship board is planning for various drive-in events around Thanksgiving and Christmas. Overall Council was comfortable with the idea.

Racial Justice Ministry

The group is moving ahead with the 3rd cohort. Taffy encouraged all in Council to take part.

There was a reminder to participate in the person-to-person gift giving for Christmas.

Board Reports:

Deacons

We plan to discuss the outcomes from the Council meeting, slate for next year and spiritual development.

Nominating

Board proposed that we extend everyone's term to one extra year (2020 does not count). Walter suggested we amend the constitution to reflect this change.

Logistics for the Annual Meeting in February needs to be discussed.

*NEXT MEETING: Monday December 7th

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Shivanthi Edwards