

Council Meeting – January 6, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm.

Attendees:

Rev Bernard

Rev Thomas Burke

Tracy Pennoyer

John Moran

Mary Crawford (via phone)

Walter McCullough

Jean Anne French

Tara Quist

Bayard Dodge

Andrew Cummings

Jordan Coursen

Krista Gross

Hadley Boyd

Will Lewis

Kurt Schreder

Shivanthi Edwards

Thomas offered a devotional on Mark 1:14-20 and the church covenant was read. Minutes of the last meeting were approved and seconded.

Minister's Report

Confirmation classes are going well, monthly meetings will be starting up again for the mission trip. Thomas has been invited by the UCC to present at a workshop on Veterans in March, he will also attend a workshop with clergy on family systems and how it applies to congregations.

Bernard wanted us to keep Jim Miller in our prayers, he visited him in hospital. He noted that the congregation responded well to Sandy's incident in church and the rest of the service proceeded quite seamlessly.

Stewardship Report

The goal was \$660,000, we are currently at \$550,000. Push is to arrive at \$620,000 this week. There was an idea going forward to have an open forum so the congregation can better understand the budget and church operating expenses, Kurt agreed.

Treasurer's Report

As of the end of November, we are ahead of budgeted revenue. 2019 was a good year for investments, the budget for 2020 is still being finalized as pledges are coming in.

Given 2% inflation, we could work with \$620,000. There would be a deficit of \$35,000-\$40,000, but that is doable. Kurt noted that the church can't run deficits year over year. We lost 3 main donors who contributed over \$70,000 combined. Last year currently, we had around 140 pledges, as of now we are at 117 pledges. We need an average pledge of \$4,700 to meet our goal.

The trustees will approve the budget, then present it to Council by Wednesday January 22nd. The dynamics on the Stewardship side unfortunately delays the timing of the budget.

There was a general discussion about the possibility of sharing the ramifications of a deficit budget with the congregation.

Administrator's Report

The state inspectors looked at Carriage House, HVAC system will be upgraded by Sippin Energy.

Nominating

Will would like all the Boards to provide him with a list of open vacancies.

CE

Hands and Hearts program is going well.

Ministry of Outreach and Social Action

The Board name has been changed to **Ministry of Outreach and Social Action**. Board members are trying to obtain a documentary about social justice accompanied by a speaker, all thought this was a good idea.

Deacons

The Board will discuss an emergency procedure medical protocol as a result of the incident with Sandy. Advent season was a success, everyone on the Board enjoys the spiritual development during the monthly meetings (led by Bernard).

Fellowship

January is a quiet month, March Madness is coming up.

Music

Board is running at a deficit; Christmas program was tough not having all the members present at all services. David was pleased with the pageant.

Trustees

The Board is working with Calvin on finalizing the budget.

Council thanked Tracy for her leadership and quiet strength.

Respectfully submitted by Shivanthi Edwards.