

**VIRTUAL
PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING
December 21, 2022**

Present: Bob Waterman, Lois Aldrich, Marc MacQueen, Jim Bonnar, Nicole Sykes

Guests: Kelly Lownds, JR Pucillo-Dunphy

Meeting called to order by Jim Bonnar at 6:30 pm.

Minutes for 11/16/22 meeting approved by PC.

Minister's Report: Rev. Peter was unable to attend the meeting but distributed his report to all PC members. PC reviewed and approved the report.

RE: Kelly Lownds emailed her report to Rev. Peter and the PC. RE continues to meet weekly in the Parish Hall. RE classes continue to center around this year's theme "Exploring Beyond Our Walls." Children are learning about the many holidays that occur in December. Holiday foods, movies, making decorations, and pizza party have been popular with the youth.

The Holiday Party was held on 12/11 at 12pm. RE decorated the holiday tree, created additional holiday ornaments and decorated gingerbread houses. There was pizza at 1pm for the children.

Kelly reported that RE has continued to see a good level of interest in a potential support group for LGBTQ youth, parents and allies. Christine Hoyle and Kelly are working on a time and date during the month of January to advertise to interested parties, both inside and outside the Church.

Treasurer's Report: Report from Bob Waterman was distributed, reviewed and approved by PC. Pledge collections seem to be behind. Bob will discuss status with Liz (our outside bookkeeping consultant) to confirm.

Christmas Staff Bonuses: The PC agreed to staff bonuses this year, same amount as last year.

Building and Grounds: The church's printer is broken. JR Pucillo-Dunphy is able to repair, but requests \$150 for the part. PC approved the request.

JR provided the PC with an update on the church's security system. The system is currently non-operational and needs to be replaced. If we do replace it, we could look at a comprehensive system that would include cameras, doorbells, door locks, and recording equipment.

Fundraising: Bob Waterman reported that the recent Holiday Auction raised a little over \$2600, making us not quite halfway to our 6-month budgeted goal.

Upcoming events include the Solstice Singers concert with soup fundraiser and a potential auction in the spring.

Discussion around possible feelings of “fundraising burn out” among the congregation.

Avis Clay Fund: Jim Bonnar reported that FUUSM recently received a generous donation from Avis Clay’s family and that the funds have been deposited in the bank.

The Clay family requested that up to 20% of this money be used to renovate the church’s Parlor, which will be dedicated to Avis Clay. In accordance with the family’s request, the remaining funds from the donation will be put in a semi-restricted trust fund devoted to the church’s music programs. This could include efforts that support the music programs (such as audio upgrades) but cannot include funds for staffing.

Cash in the Plate: The January Cash in the Plate will go to the Minister’s Discretionary Fund to be used for Veterans’ assistance. This is in response to Sandy Smiley’s participation in MAAC, where Veterans’ needs for fuel assistance, shelter, and food was discussed as a major need in Middleboro area. Stephen Adelman, the Veterans’ Service Program’s Agent in Middleboro, reported there are 1300 Veterans in our town, many of whom need assistance. Requests for assistance from the Minister’s Discretionary Fund can be made directly to Rev. Peter. Rev. Peter can then decide the best way to respond to the request.

The PC discussed the process for requesting funds from the Cash in the Plate, which includes the Minister’s Discretionary Fund. The Social Justice Team (SJT) is responsible for receiving requests and making recommendations to the PC for the Cash in the Plate each month. This recommendation could be for funds to go to a specific 501c3 non-profit organization, or to the Minister’s Discretionary Fund. This recommendation should go to PC at the beginning of the month to allow the PC time to review and respond.

FUUSM Organizational Structure: In his role as Interim Minister, Rev. Peter can help us look at how we currently operate and how we can become better and more efficient in our operation. To that end, Rev. Peter drafted an organizational chart for the PC to review. Dan Hotchkiss, who consults around church governance, has expressed interest in helping us through this process. Will discuss further at the next PC meeting.

Cottage Meetings: Rev. Peter has completed a series of Cottage Meetings with the congregation and will present his findings to the PC in January. We will not be having Listening Circles this year as the Cottage Meetings have served that purpose.

Pledge Drive: Gil Cote has offered to lead the task group this year.

Budget Updates: The PC will provide a budget update to the congregation in January, 2023.

Membership: Bob Waterman received a request from Dorine Levasseur, Membership Chair, to have a potluck dinner in the Parish Hall on January 20, 2023. This would not be a fundraiser, but rather a way for people to connect more. Many church members have expressed interest in having more such events. The PC approved the request.

Discussion around our COVID Policy and whether or not this event meets policy. The PC agreed that, if the event is considered optional (i.e., not a Church service), then people need to use their judgment as to whether or not they feel comfortable attending the event. Is it time to revisit our COVID Policy???

Meeting adjourned by Jim Bonnar at 8:09 pm.

Next PC Meetings:

January 4 @ 7:00 pm (check in - pledge drive)

January 18 at 6:30 pm (monthly meeting)