

Minutes
2016 Church Council Meeting
September 26, 2016
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Council Attendees: Bruce Hadley (Moderator), Joan Barrington, Lynne Devnew (clerk), Heather Edwards, Patti MacLennan, Bob Mustard, Nancy Von Stackelberg, Sandy Von Stackelberg, Kate Sturgis, Peggy O'Connor

Council was called to order by Bruce at 7:00 pm, who opened the meeting with a brief prayer.

Much of the meeting was devoted to brief updates. Decisions were made when appropriate.

- Communications/Website related
 - The new Friday emails were noted.
 - The calendar is using the “old version” of the website because of the difficulty in updating the new one.
 - In general, the new website isn't easy to update. Melissa is to talk with Molly Shaefer and Terry Rieber for suggestions (they were very involved in getting the new website going) and with Alison Barry (the Pilgrim youth website) and Dawn Kerivan (the PCCP website) for further insight into options.
 - The URL for Pilgrim has been www.pilgrimchurchofduxbury.org. That was causing issues. www.PilgrimChurchDUX.org is available. Bob moved, Nancy seconded, and we unanimously approved switching to this URL.
 - It was noted that websites and email are being replaced, at least for the younger generations, by Facebook and other social media offerings.
 - We discussed how we should be distributing committee minutes. No decision was made between posting them on the website (negative - requires an action to go find them) or send them via email (negative – too much email from the church could lead to all emails being ignored).
 - It was noted that Melissa had included notes on how to work with the church office in her email blast on Friday, September the 16th. Melissa will be asked to resend the blast in a few weeks, hoping to reach those who missed the first message.
 - Council communications – Lynne is to republish the list identifying the council member responsible for communications with each church committee. The council member will be reminded of the importance of attending several meeting each year with those committees.
- We had a general discussion on the use of the email addresses the church has. All were in agreement that the list should not be distributed to be used for private purposes and that church blast emails should be sent only by a few, authorized people following a brief approval process. Kate volunteered to see if other area churches have explicit policies and, based on the information gathered, to recommend a policy for council vote.
- There was a discussion of the value of having a more detailed church calendar that could be used for planning purposes. For example, rather than merely including the date for a church pageant, it would include other important dates related to planning and publicity. Both capturing and maintaining information at the task level would be very challenging. As a small first step, the decision was made to ask committees to send Melissa a list of their most important dates to include on the church calendar.

- All were encouraged to attend the Massachusetts Conference's Super Saturday on October 15. Those wishing to attend should look at the offerings and let Melissa know the session they would like to attend by October 2 (If ordered as a unit, the registration fees will be discounted).
- Bruce and Kate reported on a moderators' community of practice meeting they attended that had been hosted by the Pilgrim Association. Topics covered have been included in the relevant sections.

Council planning

We need to follow the agreed upon operating model until we are ready to ask the congregation to approve a new model. This includes:

- We need of appoint the vice moderator, or next moderator.
- We need to establish goals for the year; without them, how will we assess whether or not we achieved them?

We discussed the need for council to focus on the big picture rather than the specific roles that have been given to committees; they should be trusted to fulfill their roles. This includes the need to reduce the amount of time we spend on finances as that is the responsibility of the Trustees, who are very ably playing that role.

Pastor's report

Peggy noted the changes that have been made to the church's computer systems, including improved wiring, Wifi, phone service boosters, and new computers. She also noted that the sound system had been working the prior Sunday.

Bruce asked when we would begin the formal process to begin learning about ourselves. Peggy noted her current focus has been on getting everything working. She anticipates that sometime in October we will be able to begin talking about what we want to do to begin learning about ourselves. This should have us ready to being working on the self-learning process in January.

Committee additions

Patti reminded us that in addition to Emily's ecclesiastical council on October 11, we should expect that Emily's ordination and installation (which will be combined) will be coming up soon. Peggy said she would be working with Patti on the related planning. It was noted that we have a lot of celebrations and should be seeking ways to supplement and support Janet Ritch and her small hospitality committee.

Meals for missions starts on Monday, October 3 at 6 pm.

Stewardship reported that for this upcoming round of pledging, individuals will not be asked to separately provide a pledge amount for Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) and church expenditures. Trustees will make the decision on how to split the funds that are raised. A very positive campaign is planned, with stewardship moments to be included in church services starting the second Sunday in October.

Peggy offered a closing prayer and council was adjourned at 8:30 pm with enthusiastic thanks to God and to the Interim Search Committee.