

DEACONS MEETING MINUTES

12/5/2025

PRESENT: David Jones, Host, Judy Haupt, Scribe, Bruce Bennett, Kare Marshall, Leslie Fraser, Caroline Mack, Alice Barrett, Wendy Pree, Margaret Boone

OPENING PRAYER: Wendy

REVIEW MINUTES of 11/7/2024 – Approved as written

PRAYER CARDS: Tony Cappabianca: Kare

Berkeley: Margaret

Rochelle's Dan: Bruce

John Yannis: Congrats for daughter > Bruce

Joe Botelho: Wendy

Sherrill's Brother: Leslie

Victoria N. & Linsey: Caroline

Suzanna Lee: Kare

Bev Labelle: Wendy

Fur the Love of Animals: Judy

DAVID'S UPDATE: Worship Team > Spreadsheet for volunteers for lay ministry, greeters, etc. has been created by Virginia. Team has not met again per se.

Transformation Team: Consultant Heather has given suggestions for Team member selection: no couples, various ages, genders, etc. Volunteers include: Kare, Holly, Alan S., Allen G., Vic, Lori W., Berkeley & David. Others that could be considered include Stein, Ann Gibson and Leslie. So, reps from the Deacons, Trustees, youth, genders, at large members and minister are covered. ** David to discuss more with volunteers.

Meg's Review: **To be scheduled. Of note is that she has begun setting boundaries for her time, considering her 2nd job demands, and requesting more variety in hymn selection. Informed that she has her own budget to work with. She is requesting input from the Deacons.

Margery's Review: ** To be scheduled. Continues to prefer "old school" hymns, encouraged by Meg and David to branch out.

PASTORAL COVERAGE: 12/29, Bruce

1/26, Satch (confirmed)

2/9, Leslie

3/9, Alice

4/9, 5/6, Ann Hallstein, Nancy Sykes (TBD which

date for each)

DEACON COVERAGE: 12/29, Judy

DEACON COVERAGE: 1/5, Communion Sunday – Margaret & Wendy
1/12, Caroline
1/19, Judy
1/26, Caroline

DEACON ISSUES: Sunday School > Wendy reports a variety of interest in having something 1-2X/month. Hetty is seeking her CORI for childcare. Robin is thinking about evening activities for families. Satch has offered to do SS 1X/month when the choir is off. So leave the Coordinator position in the budget for \$500??? Look at various grant opportunities via the UCC, Ashfield Cultural Council. Create a subcommittee to check it out. WHO?

Deacon Members: Consider Sam Perkins for #9. Wendy and Alice will both reup.

Advent: 12/8 > Xmas Cards > we have plenty donated and Chief Beth needs 30 and ** Judy will deliver.

12/15 > Cookie Decorating. ** Leslie will bring tubes of icing and sprinkles. Buy Blanks? Permission given. Seek baked cookies for Coffee hour to be eaten. ** Wendy to ask via Wed. Memo

12/22 > Share photos of folks past Xmas with stories to go with. ** Wendy to encourage folks to bring photos and stories in Wed. memo.

Easter Banner: Ask Nancy Marshall if she could make one.
** who will ask?

Church Closing Protocol for weather. ** Judy will send out the protocol for what needs to be done to close SUNDAY Church service if there is a weather WARNING (as opposed to an Advisory). David would make the call after consulting with those in the village.

BUDGET: Ted has broken down the budget with expected income (70% of our income) against requested expenses, coming up with about \$20,000 short. So, we either need to increase income with requesting folks to increase their pledges or reduce expenses by eliminating or reducing church positions or salaries or both. David asks "Does the size of our Church justify the # of positions and salaries in place?" There was much discussion on reducing the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, relying on the Xmas Eve offering and having **Wendy put in a plea for donations in the Jan. AN (due 12/28) with an explanation of what the fund does for the community in need. Bruce, Alice, Wendy and David to bring up at Church Council.

CLOSING PRAYER: Leslie

** Indicates an Action Plan

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: Judy Haupt, Scribe

NEXT MEETING: Jan.2, 2025 @ 7PM, Inperson pending weather.

