

DEACONS MEETING MINUTES

1/9/2025

PRESENT: In Person, David Jones: Host, Judy Haupt, Scribe. Via ZOOM: Wendy Pree, Facilitator, Leslie Fraser, Bruce Bennett, Kare Marshall, Caroline Mack, Margaret Boone

OPENING PRAYER: Wendy

REVIEW MINUTES of 12/5/24: Approved with 1 correction.

PRAYER CARDS: Stein with another eye surgery > Judy
Phil S.: Cousin with cancer > Kare
John and Kate > Leslie
Jeannine: TY for the Queen Bee > Kare
Alice B.: Ill > Kare
Robin W.: TY for the pageant > Caroline
Betty L.: Family member better > Judy
Laurie F.: Support friend with breast cancer > Kare
Ted M.: Brother in Hospice in Kansas > Wendy
Annie C.: Mary Clare > Kare
Leslie C.: Friend experiencing social injustice
Barbara C.: Sister with surgery > Leslie
Joanie S.: Safe travels > Wendy per email
Carolyn Smith: Son Eric with Diabetic CX > Caroline
Rachael and Davis Wang: Welcome to Church, support for Rachael's sister, sympathy for cousin's passing > Judy
Kara Cook: Cousin died > Bruce
Vicki X: Congrats > Leslie
Linsey: Friend passing > Wendy

DAVID'S UPDATE: 1) Meg, Margery's reviews to be scheduled.

2) Worship Team; Next meeting date to be scheduled.

Spread sheet for volunteer greeters, coffee hour help will be made available to the Deacons.

3) Transformation Team Members: David, Holly, Leslie, Kare, Lori W. and Alan S. Either Allen or Vic > still discerning and Berkely has withdrawn. Waiting for Heather, UCC consultant to get back to David with an intro date.

4) Pastor's Disc. Fund: Xmas Eve > \$918 + 2 special checks= \$1318. Ad for this fund put into the Jan. issue of TAN, so more \$, maybe.

5) Newly inducted minister, Julie, from the FC ASS. Will be going to the Hadwen Park Church in Worcester where we support the LGBTQIA asylum seekers program.

6) Tom McChesney's service planning next week with Jasper and Berkeley.

7) Budget Issues – Talking with Ted tomorrow re: inc. education stipend as this is a Synod year with extra expenses.

8) 6 weeks vacation: As per his Pastoral Review, David is requesting 2 more weeks of paid vacation for a total of 6. He does not think this will impact the budget for pulpit supply but may strain getting the # of lay ministers from the Congregation to step in. Much discussion as to how and who gets this approved. Trustees?, Deacons?, Church Council? Leslie suggests bringing to Congregational Meeting for final approval after the OK by the above committees. Deacons' formal vote not taken tonight, but have agreed in past emails.

9) Indigenous Acknowledgement: Recently lost sight of this project. Too little "David time" to devote to this issue. Much discussion as to the use of the "right" language for both the Indigenous community and our Congregation. But it's more about what we DO, rather than what we say. Our subcommittee has lost a key member < Rochelle, but Leslie, Berkeley and Holly were interested in the past. Larry Spotted Man has taken over the leadership at Ohketao(?SP>) in Ashfield and has recently expressed interest in connecting. How to move forward?

PASTORAL COVERAGE: 2/23 > David's Vacation from 2/17>23.

DEACON COVERAGE: Feb. 2 Communion Sunday > Judy and Caroline
Feb. 9, 16, 23 > Caroline

DEACON ISSUES: 1) Safe Church Policy: Insurance Company has sent recommended changes which include a procedure for reporting an abuse incident. Copy to be sent to Deacons by **David for our formal review and OK and to all employees that may be impacted for their signature reflecting their review > Music Dept, custodian, SS workers. Then this will be taken to the Congregational Meeting for their information. Virginia to set up a Google Drive that would include a space for all to review various documents, like this policy, David's Call Agreement, etc.

2) Easter Banner: Nancy Marshall is willing to stitch if the church buys the materials. Agreed to buy out of Misc. in our budget. Not urgent as depends on Nancy's schedule. On the Agenda for ACM.

3) Coffee Hour: Since no one is showing up to set up, the Deacons have decided it will be **JUST COFFEE** so it does not fall on the Deacons to bail the hour out every Sunday. This will be on the Agenda for the Congregational Meeting.

4) Sunday School: Develop a small group to get organized. ** Wendy to ask Robin W., Ann Larson, Hetty, ? Alice. Look into grant funding for a coordinator.

5) Deacons' terms up – Alice and Wendy are reupping and one more slot to fill. Sam Perkins and Tony C. came up for the 9th slot. ** David to inquire.

6) Need to make decisions on who gets paid what for Pulpit Supply. Decision made to pay every sub preacher the same sum and if they return the check, so be it. Lay ministers would volunteer their service.

7) Banner: "All Are Welcome Here" is faded and needs replacing. Missions has not decided whether to fund. Lori W., Stein and Randy show interest. To be put on the ACM Agenda.

BUDGET: Stewardship Committee is down to 1 > Bert and needs help. ** Wendy can suggest some folks. Pledges are up (\$99,300) which Bert attributes to being based on FAITH and not info on the recent, more transparent Trustee explanations on the budget itself. Whatever the reason, we are still behind and will need to draw from the Clark Fund to meet expenses. Much discussion re: restoring cuts to the Diaconate for the Music Dept. (+\$300) and Pulpit Supply (+\$250). **Wendy will call Ted to make our case.

** indicates an action plan

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: Judy Haupt, Scribe

CLOSING PRAYER: Leslie reads from a prayer poem dedicated to the CA fires.

NEXT MEETING: 2/2/2025 @ 7PM > In person or ZOOM, weather dependent.