

DEACONS MEETING MINUTES – PART 2

3/19/2026

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

OPENING PRAYER: David from Mick C.'s book of poetry

REVIEW MINUTES of 2/25 and 3/5: Approved with corrections on 3/5 (typo)

PRAYER CARDS: Berkeley will continue to write cards and will send out her list each week to the Deacons as to who is on the list.

DAVID'S UPDATE: 1) Meetings moved to Tuesdays is OK for May and June.
2) Music Ministries' Contracts not yet signed. Meg's has been amended so that hopefully Virginia will be in charge of scheduling the piano tuning.

3) New Members' classes: Barbara Rowe, Ann Hallstein, Nancy Sykes, Suzie Chandler, Curtis Lizotte and maybe Brie Leue. Some have asked that they stand with a buddy, one is shy about being on the Chancel. They will meet with **David on Wed. March 25 from 4-6 to discuss "Faith Journeys". Maybe **Bruce will join. Induction scheduled on Palm Sunday with Deacons in attendance on the Chancel and **Leslie will do the Litany. A New Member Ritual needs to be created for the future. No volunteers stepped up at this time.

4) Conversation Café: Analysis > "went well". TT suggests 4 more Cafes addressing 1 topic per month with a Facilitator for each group from the TT if needed.

5) Oscar's Baptism: May 3, Bert will preach and baptize. **David and **Leslie will do Communion, **Leslie will do the Liturgy and **Bruce will sing.

6) Lent: Maundy Thursday > ** David to confirm Bonnie's singing and select Readers. Potluck with **Wendy to confirm with Jeff to leave the tables up from Food Pantry.

Good Friday: Church will be closed but David knows that 1st Churches in Northampton has a service @7PM. ? activity at St. John's.

7) Sat., 5/23 – Herb Geiling's Memorial Service. Details being discussed with the family.

8) 3/22 > The 1st of discussions/education on our Anti-Apartheid Free Pledge. 3 more dates in April are planned.

PASTORAL COVERAGE: 4/12 > Nancy Sykes

4/19 > Nancy Marshall

4/26 > ?

5/3 > Bert, David and Leslie for Oscar's Baptism

5/10 > David

5/17 > Hetty's Poetea

5/24 > ? Story telling, TBD

5/31 > A Jeannine/Alice skit? TBD

6/7 > Taizé Service with Satch and the Ashtones, Leslie doing Communion.

6/14 > David

6/21 > David, Possible Release Ritual, depending on who is available from Conf. and Ass.

6/28 > ? will preach, Final Service for David's Release. **He will contact the Area Ass. and **Leslie will contact the Conf. Rep. Liz re: availability. Or 6/21, if not available on 6/28.

7/6 > Lakeside Service, Details TBD

NOTE that Sarah Pirtle and Tony C. are available for sermons. Margery may call Kathy Bullock for her usual Spring visit to Church.

Bert will provide emergency coverage for April.

DEACON COVERAGE: 4/5 > Easter/Communion Sunday > Caroline, Margaret

4/12 > Wendy

4/19 > Leslie

4/26 > Caroline

DEACON ISSUES: 1) Wendy's resignation put on hold. We are reminded that her caregiving may require last minute subs.

2) Palm Sunday/Passover, 3/29: New Member Celebration/Sader per Satch and possibly Ayala. ** Caroline will order a carrot cake for 30 from Sita Bird. ** Berkeley will discuss with Satch.

3) Easter Banner: needs to be found and put up on Sat., April 4. ** Margaret will look for it > Deacons' closet or in the Green Room closets? Have Jeff, or Chris or a Trustee hang?

4) Post Easter > ** Wendy and **Margaret will swop out the purple linens for white in the Sanctuary.

5) Red Hat Project: Knitting continues. Hats available until 3/28 for a donation. Caroline M. has lost her hat in Friendship Hall. Keep an eye out.

6) Perfume Intolerance: a few folks are sensitive. Suggestion to put a warning in the Wed. email(**Wendy) and Sunday

Bulletin (Virginia). What about performances? ** Kare will ask Pauline Productions about this.

7) Deacons Meetings will now be on Tuesdays, however only one committee can use the Church's ZOOM acct. Deacons need ZOOM for 3 folks who are either caregiving or cannot drive at night. ** David to talk with Virginia about a second acct. as Leslie will no longer have access to Mt. Holyoke after June. Do the Trustees need the ZOOM for their meetings?

8) Flags: Bruce reports that Nancy Marshall has offered to make the Rainbow Banner > 1'X5' with UV protected canvas and M&SJ will pay the cost of \$110. She will also repair the Rainbow Standard flag carried at Gay Pride parade, etc.

9) Future Church Pastoral Ministry – Where do we go from here? It's ultimately up to the Congregation to decide but NOW is the time to get started. A subcommittee including Leslie, Berkeley, Alice and Margaret will begin the process and invite others as needed. There are guidelines from the UCC re: writing our short profile for a Bridge or Interim pastor. Sharing a pastor with another church is also an option.

** Indicates an action plan

CLOSING PRAYER: The sick Deacons faded away to their beds, the well Deacons went to their respective kitchens, the sub committee continued to meet, so prayers were privately sent to Heaven.

REPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: Judy Haupt, Scribe

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, April 7 @ 7PM in the Green Room – Hybrid Meeting. Leslie will host.