

Ministry Team Meeting

February 11, 2019

The meeting opened at 7:06 PM with prayer.

Attendees: Pastor Chris Hart, David Niles, Sandy Keene, Ron Mertens, Carol Hurn, Kim Mosley, Caroline Cranos, Linda Paulet, Barry Lay, Jennifer Petersen. Guest: Historian Steve Spaulding

The meeting began with a visit from the church Historian, Steve Spaulding speaking to the group about his ideas for records storage. He has been going through the vault area downstairs and reviewing the material we have there. His recommendation to the church is that we donate the historic records dated 1726-1890 to the Peabody Essex Museum for ongoing safekeeping. The museum has a records storage facility in Rowley which is best able to handle these sensitive items and keep them safe for generations to come. The Ministry Team is in support of this idea and will present it to the congregation at Annual Meeting.

The Team then moved onto the topic of succession planning. Barry Lay attended the meeting to get a feel for how this group works together and to answer any questions folks had about his thoughts on joining the team as the Minister of Worship. Then the group discussed the fact that, as of this date, no one has seemed called to position of Minister of Faith Formation, currently held by Caroline Cranos. This is concerning to the group and the topic of whether to talk to the congregation about ceasing this ministry was discussed. For now Jen will run a piece in the weekly communication to the congregation and hopefully someone will step up. Otherwise this conversation may have to take place at Annual Meeting.

The topic of forming the church's Search Team was then discussed. It is time to start putting a group together for this important task. We will be looking for 8-10 people to commit to approximately one year on a weekly, sometimes more, basis. Two folks have indicated an interest as of now. Again, Jen will run something in the church communication so that a team can be in place by summer 2019.

Check Ins from each minister began. Caroline Cranos began with some concerns and questions about how best to proceed with the Sunday School program. Last year it was discussed that if the church's financial position didn't change (improve) that the Finance Team would not support funding the two Faith Formation positions: Sunday School Coordinator and Youth Group Coordinator. The group talked about different ideas that were being considered for Sunday School. There have been a couple donations totaling \$1500 in support of funding some sort of youth coordinator. It was decided that the positions would be eliminated after this year and that a new position would be created call Youth Program Coordinator using these donations and asking for the congregation to support the balance in the 2019-2020 budget.

With time running out on the meeting Pastor Chris asked for any other urgent matters from the group.

- Jen asked about scheduling issues regarding Baccalaureate this year. Pastor Chris says that the church is planning in conjunction with other area churches, a Baccalaureate service to take place on Friday, May 31st.
- Sandy Keene asked about the group's thoughts on approaching the preschool Director, Marie, about a fundraising campaign with the school families to help raise funds for the security doors at the school. The team approved. She said that crash bars at either end of the school hallway were all that was being considered at this time. This would make the church accessible to more folks during the day without sacrificing the safety of the school.
- Dave Niles gave a brief description of some of the work going on downstairs in the nursery and classroom areas to make the space more usable.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.