

First Congregational Church of Woodstock

MINUTES of COUNCIL MEETING (Pending Approval)

Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

In attendance: Rev. Dr. Kevin Downer, Bob Kirk (Moderator), Ashley Alderman, Laura Bond, Charles Bottieri, Suzanne Cimochoowski, Carl Davis, Lynn Davis, Debby Kirk, Bruce Lyman, Alexandra (Sam) Lyman, Christina Manuilow, Leilani Nixon, Lisa Nowak, Kathy Packard, Jeff Perkins, Tom Singleton, Bruce Staehle, Charlene Swanson, Holly Ware, Paula Wilmot, Carl Wisnosky

Welcome

- Moderator, Bob Kirk opened the meeting at 7:05pm with a reminder that only members of Council can make a motion or second a motion.

Opening Devotion

- Rev. Kevin shared an interpretation of the 3rd Psalm.

Clerk's Report

- Clerk, Laura Bond reminded Council that we will now hold approval of meeting minutes until the subsequent Council meeting. Any corrections or suggestions for revisions can be made at or prior to that meeting. We will then receive a motion to approve the minutes and any revisions.
- Reminder- only Council members can vote.
- MOTION: to approve the April meeting minutes, Charlene/2nd Carl W. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's report submitted by Carl Davis. We are 1/3 through this fiscal year and doing well.
- Trustees are monitoring the pledges carefully.
- MOTION: to approve the Treasurer's report, Tom S./2nd Sam L. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report

- Rev. Kevin has shared his Pastor's Report on the website. In order to save time, he offered that, unless anyone has any questions or issues they'd like to discuss regarding his report, we could move on. There were no questions or comments.

News Briefs

- The Southern New England Conference of the UCC held their 2nd Annual Meeting on Saturday May 8th. Charlene and Bob attended as our FCCW delegates and were pleased to meet the new Conference Minister, Rev. Darrell Goodwin.

- Seana Weaver's marathon fund raiser was a huge success, raising over \$8,000 for Community Kitchens.
- Charlene reports the Deacons are finishing Rev. Kevin's first six-month review. (A new minister is reviewed at 6, 12 and 18 months.)

Old Business

- 2020 Annual Report ad hoc committee- Rev. Kevin reports that they have spoken with Ted, Ellen, and the Trustees. They were able to clarify the timeline of events to everyone's satisfaction. A revised report has been submitted for approval by Council. MOTION: To accept with appreciation a change in the language of the Music Committee's 2020 Annual Report. Sam L./2nd Tom S. Motion passed.
- On Pentecost Sunday (May 23rd) we will resume in-person, outdoor service on the lawn behind the parsonage. We will continue social distancing, wearing masks, etc. The service will be posted to Facebook, YouTube and our Website later in the day, allowing time to edit the recording. The minister and deacons are continuing to review and improve the process of presenting church services, both in-person and online. In the case of inclement weather, the congregation will be notified in advance.
- A "Tech Team" is being assembled, led by Bruce S. to produce a quality video experience for our hybrid services. In order to accomplish this, we need to acquire a device to store and play recorded music selections to be played through the Crate amp during service and a video camera to record the service. Additionally, we need volunteers to run the equipment, edit the videos and post them online every week.
 - Carl W. reports that the Trustees received information about the needed equipment and agreed unanimously to approve funds to purchase these items.
- Ad hoc Committee on Reopening the Building to OUTSIDE Groups- Carl D. described some of the difficulties with this issue in that everyone (including the experts) has different opinions, and the guidelines are constantly changing.
 - Council has previously said they will consider each case individually.
 - The committee defined basically three types of groups: Individuals, small groups (less than 20) and large groups (greater than 20).

- Any usage of the building will be subject to specific guidelines.
- The committee determined they are comfortable with individuals and adult groups of less than 20 people.
- The committee does not recommend groups of more than 20 people at this time.
- Moderator, Bob K, proposes we vote on each of the requests before us at this time.
 - AA group: MOTION: to permit the AA group to resume use of our facility on a weekly basis, abiding by the current rules of the building's use, laid out by the ad hoc committee (effective May 5, 2021). Carl D./2nd Bruce S. Motion passed.
 - Kristen Wedegis: (individual who would like to use our organ for practice). MOTION: to permit Kristen Wedegis to use our organ for practice, abiding by the current rules of the building's use, laid out by the ad hoc committee, coordinating her schedule with Leilani Nixon (FCCW Organist and acting Music Director). Bruce S./2nd Carl. Motion passed.
 - Boy Scout Troop 27: would like to resume use of the building for Tuesday evening meetings and monthly leadership meetings. Additionally, they have requested to use our sanctuary for their annual Court of Honor ceremony on June 6th if inclement weather keeps them from having the ceremony outside at Roseland Park.
 - MOTION: to permit Boy Scout Troop 27 to plan to use our sanctuary for an alternate site on June 6, 2021 for their annual Court of Honor event, subject to restrictions which will be defined at a later date. Carl D./2nd Charlene. Motion unanimously defeated.
 - MOTION: to approve resumption of Boy Scout Troop 27, adult only, leadership meetings. Carl D./2nd Tom S. Motion passed by a large margin.
 - MOTION: to allow Boy Scout Troop 27 to resume their regular meeting schedule within the church with restrictions as laid out by the ad hoc committee. Motion defeated with one abstention. Rev. Kevin recommends we ask the Scout leaders to suggest ways they could use the building while following our guidelines.

New Business

- Revisioning Initiative: Rev. Kevin referencing the Pastor's Report for April, reminds us that time is of the essence in getting this important work started and he is seeking Council's commitment to engage in the work.
 - MOTION: Council agrees to the need to engage in a process to clarify our mission and vision, will assist the pastor in forming a team to facilitate the Values and Vision initiative, and is committed to working with the pastor and said team to further refine

the approach described in the April Pastor's Report. Lynn D./2nd Paula W. Motion passed unanimously.

- Tag Sale on June 5th: Deb K. requests the option to use the church lawn and parking lot for a tag sale during the Woodstock Town Wide Tag Sale. Proceeds will help to offset outreach work for local hunger ministries. MOTION: to allow use of the church lawn and parking area for participation in an outdoor only tag sale event. (The church building will not be open to the public.) Deb K./2nd Paula W. Motion passed unanimously.
- "Plant a Row" Initiative: The Lion's Club is asking for gardeners to plant an extra row in their gardens for the purpose of donation. They have asked Community Kitchen to participate by both planting and being a collection site for this. MOTION: for our church to agree to be a drop-off site for the Lion's Club "Plant a Row" Initiative. Lynn D./2nd Deb K. Motion passed unanimously.
- Grounds Committee: Lynn Davis is the sole member and is submitting her resignation effective immediately.
 - MOTION: that the Property Management Team assume tasks of the Ground Committee until such time that the Grounds Committee becomes a viable committee. Lynn D./
 - MOTION: to table the motion and to consult with the Property Management Team and the Trustees. Sam L./2nd Carl W. Motion passe. (9 in favor, no abstentions)
- We are considering in-person indoor services, see Pastor's report.

MOTION: to adjourn @ 9:02pm. Carl D/2nd Bruce S.

Closing Prayer given by Charlene S.