

First Congregational Church of Woodstock

MINUTES of COUNCIL MEETING (Not yet Approved)

Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

In attendance: Rev. Dr. Kevin Downer, Bob Kirk (Moderator), Laura Bond, Charles Bottieri, John Cimochoowski, Suzanne Cimochoowski, Carl Davis, Lynn Davis, Noah Gourlie, Debby Kirk, Bruce Lyman, Alexandra (Sam) Lyman, Kathy Packard, Charlene Swanson, Tom Singleton, Holly Ware, Paula Wilmot

Welcome

- Moderator Bob Kirk opened the meeting at 7:03 pm.

Opening Devotion - Rev. Kevin offered a prayer

Clerk's Report

- Laura reported that the June minutes were shared via email for review by Council meeting attendees.
- Two corrections were offered.
- MOTION: to approve the June Council meeting minutes with the noted corrections. Sam L. /2nd Tom S. Motion passed, with 3 abstentions.

Treasurer's Report (Carl Davis)

- Trustees did not meet in July therefore there is no formal budget report. All expenses are in line, no abnormalities, budget is at 80% for year.
- The fundraising campaign for painting the exterior of the church has acquired \$27,650 from 24 amazingly generous donors, plus a \$15,000 Maintenance & Repair grant from Preservation Connecticut, which will fund the entire project.
- Part of those donations is a \$10,000 stock donation which needs to be transferred into the church's brokerage account.
- MOTION: to accept with appreciation the Treasurer's oral report, Charlene S. /2nd Noah G. Motion passed, with 1 abstention.

Pastor's Report

- Communication Concerns
 - Need to keep our online calendar up to date
 - SHARE –
 - Shift the publication to the third week of the month (the week after Council meeting)
 - Combine two months at a time to reduce time spent preparing the SHARE newsletter.
 - Maintain the weekly email newsletter
- Worship:
 - Aug 29th Final combined service with EWCC
 - Sept. 12th is Homecoming Service, resuming 10:00 am services
 - Rev. Kevin will confer with the Reopening Committee regarding any necessary changes in protocol due to the new Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus.
 - There will be a memorial service for Mary Larson on Aug. 28th, the family has asked for help with baked goods. There will also be a memorial service for Rick Amato Oct. 23rd. (Rick grew up in Woodstock and his parents were active members of our church.)

- July 18th Conversation on Music and Faith Formation (summary is also in the Pastor's report)
 - Importance of intergenerational worship
 - Need for a Coordinator of Faith Formation *for all ages* (rather than a Director of Family Ministries)
 - Desire for Bible study meetings
 - Creative Worship Planning Team combining music, liturgy, and worship
 - Core group created, met Aug. 3rd and will meet again Aug. 17th.
 - Will survey the congregation
 - Will draft a job description for a music minister/choir director
 - Approach for recruiting a music minister/choir director
 - Trustees feel we should follow the model we have used in the past (i.e.: with Lisa Haupt) by forming a knowledgeable team who craft the job description, then using feedback from the congregation, recruit and interview candidates, with final decision approved by Council and Trustees.
 - The consensus of Council is to support this plan.
- Begin a conversation around the structure and governance of the church; looking at different models for our current boards and committees.
- Rev. Kevin requests that meeting attendees send suggestions for members of the Visioning team.

News Briefs

- Sam shared regarding the fundraising for the painting project - the astonishing number of gifts from people we never see at church shows that people are still connected even though we haven't seen them.
- For other news briefs see Board and Committee Reports

Old Business

- Art & Crafts Fair on October 16th-17th (Karen Olah)
 - Council received an email from Karen. She reports "we now have approx 30 artists and crafters who have signed up to participate in the Fall Art Show and I'm trying very hard to enlist 10 more artists to join us. I met with Karen McFarlin last week to discuss layout inside and out for the participants."
- Chicken BBQ at the Woodstock Fair (John Cimochoowski)
 - A few spots still open for volunteers
 - Costs have gone up and we will have to raise our prices. (i.e.: pulled pork went up 42%!)
 - Lost one food supplier due to pandemic, John was able to cover with another vendor
- Nominating Committee Update (Bob and Deb Kirk)
 - Acknowledging awareness of vacancies on boards and committees

New Business

- Christmas on the Hill - Nov. 20th (Deb Kirk)
 - Similar modifications to what we did last year (which worked very well)
- Stewardship (Paula Wilmot)
 - Sent companion letter to 2nd Quarter mailing
 - Coordinating with Trustees, Treasurer and Office Manager

- 2022 campaign to roll out in September with new theme
- Noah's Practicum Requirement for Seminary
 - Noah needs field education placement and would like to work with FCCW which would require:
 - Noah to work 10 hours per week over a 30 week period
 - Rev. Kevin would need to spend 90 minutes per week with Noah
 - Opportunities for Noah to preach twice
 - To include a pastoral care component, and a teaching component
 - Need a "partnership in ministry agreement" between the student (Noah), the supervisor (Rev. Kevin) and the seminary (Princeton Theological Seminary)
 - Noah is seeking approval of Council to work with FCCW (pending Princeton's approval)
 - Rev. Kevin feels this would be beneficial to all involved
 - Council values Noah and this experience, and agrees to support him any way we can
- Kiosk (Sam Lyman)
 - Sam cleaned off the kiosk, much was quite outdated. She would like us to consider removing the kiosk since we now have much more viable communication through online means.
- Community Kitchen
 - Need help preparing meals on Sept. 13, Nov. 8, and Dec. 13.

Next Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 14th: Zoom or In-Person?

- Council prefers Zoom at this time, due to the Delta variant.

Closing prayer offered by Lynn D.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm

Scribe: Laura Bond