

First Congregational Church of Woodstock

MINUTES of COUNCIL MEETING (Not yet Approved)

Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

In attendance: Rev. Dr. Kevin Downer, Bob Kirk (Moderator), Laura Bond, Charles Bottieri, Suzanne Cimochoowski, Jennifer Duggan, Tom Duggan, Debby Kirk, Alexandra (Sam) Lyman, Christina Manuilow, Leilani Nixon, Jim Nowak, Karen Olah, Tom Singleton, Bruce Staehle, Paula Wilmot

Welcome

- Moderator Bob Kirk opened the meeting at 7:06 pm.

Opening Devotion

- Rev. Kevin shared from Mark 4:2-33 (from The Inclusive Bible)

Clerk's Report (Laura B)

- Minutes of last month's meeting were shared via email. No amendments or corrections were suggested.
- MOTION: to accept the clerk's report as written. Bruce S/2nd Tom S. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report (Tom D filling in for Carl D)

- Financial report is posted on our website.
- In the 9 month comparison income is high due to the \$12,000 grant.
- Chicken BBQ funds have not been entered yet.
- The special campaign for painting is not included here, that is a separate budget.
- Outreach has not yet dispensed their gift funds.
- Payroll expenses are below budget because the Music Director, Faith Formation and Sexton positions remain unfilled.
- MOTION: to accept the Treasurer's Report. Sam L/2nd Paula W. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report (Rev. Kevin D)

- Full report can be viewed on our website
- Rev. Kevin requests that congregants share thoughts and insights through three surveys:
 - Music Survey <https://tinyurl.com/2021FCCWMusic>
 - Intergenerational Worship <https://forms.gle/JS4ym5cs9cNhHPFd7>
 - Union Services <https://forms.gle/ytyP9RaCeaDN5VpTA>
- Invitation to join in conversations:
 - Weekly Bible Study Tuesdays @10:30am in-person and via Zoom
 - "Pie with the Pastor": Oct 13 & Nov 3 at 2 pm; Oct 20 & Nov 17 at 6 pm
 - Family Ministry gathering: "Pumpkins, Pizza, and Pie Oh My" on Oct. 24th after church
- Choose a date for a 2nd Hour (and encourage attendance) to introduce conversation on restructuring, as well as clarify the vision and values processes.
 - Date set for Nov.7th

- Vision and Value Team: Jen D, Kristin G-K, Bob K, Donna D
- Restructuring Team: Charlene S, Bruce S, Debbie P-F, Debby K
- Not too late to join these teams
- Rev. Kevin has been with us for 1 year and he offers a re-introduction, a summary of which can be found in the Pastor's report. Rev. Kevin's doctoral thesis was on transforming community, focusing on conversations.

NEWS BRIEFS

- Board and Committee reports are available on our website
- Deacons (Bruce S): The Board of Deacons recommends reducing the Deaconate from 8 members to 6 members, and to eliminate the requirement of equal numbers of men and women on the board (this could remain a goal, but not be a requirement).
- Fall Clean-Up with the Boy Scouts - Sat. Nov. 6th, 9am - 12pm

OLD BUSINESS

- Arts & Crafts Fair, Oct. 16th & 17th (Karen O.)
 - There will be 45 artists and crafters
 - Ads in Shopper's Guide/Turnpike Buyer and Villager papers
 - Set up tables inside on Thursday and outside on Friday, crafters can set up Friday afternoon.
 - Karen and Frank will mark out spaces and oversee parking
 - Jim N. (kitchen/food prep) all set with volunteers
 - Food is pick-up only. No public pre-order.
- Christmas on the Hill (Debby K)
 - Oct. 31st - bring boxes down from attic after church service
 - Debby is putting order forms together which she will share with Rev. Kevin so he can set up the e-commerce.
 - Start publicizing after the Craft Fair is done.
 - Silent Auction will again be online, handled by Golden Gavel
 - Downstairs will have Unique Boutique and a couple other tables, using one-way traffic pattern.
 - Debby created a "sign-up genius" for help with prep
 - Deadline for SHARE - week of Oct. 18th, the earlier the better
- Stewardship (Paula W)
 - Multimedia kick-off was at the intergenerational service on Sept. 26th.
 - Paula created a "living" timeline which members can continue to contribute to.
 - Pledge packets went out Oct. 9th. Blessing of the pledges on Oct. 24th.

NEW BUSINESS

- Faith Formation Lifelong Learning (Paula W)

- Start conversations regarding what our church families want.
- Oct. 24th - Family version of “Pie with the Pastor” and trip to UCONN soccer game.
- How do we engage teenagers?
- Search for Faith Formation Leader (Rev. Kevin)
 - We need a subset of our community to create a job description and look into budget considerations
 - Plan a meeting for further discussion of family needs and wants
- Employee handbook (Sam L)
 - Draft was found and handbook is close to finalization
- Holding Coffee Hour Indoors?
 - We are comfortable with indoor coffee hour
 - No coffee hour the weekend of Arts & Crafts Fair. Go shopping instead.
- What to do with old VHS tapes? (Sam L)
 - Sam found many VHS tapes while cleaning up classrooms
 - Suggestions: swap shed
- Green Church concerns
 - A concern was raised about using bottled water and styrofoam meal containers
 - SNEUCC has information about being a “green church” on their website. We are at level one of three levels defined there. Debby K can forward this information.
 - Jim N reported the sandwich containers for the Craft Fair are made out of biodegradable material. The bottled water is left over from the Chicken BBQ. Our customers will purchase bottled water but not cups of water. The bottles we purchase are returnable. Additionally we keep a supply of bottled water for memorial and funeral services. There is a cost factor to being “green”. Open to suggestions.
 - The styrofoam containers we use at Community Kitchen are donated to us.
 - Green Church considerations can be part of our wider conversations of vision and values.

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:25pm

Closing Prayer offered by Debby K.

Scribe: Laura Bond