

First Congregational Church of Woodstock

MINUTES of COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

In attendance: Rev. Dr. Kevin Downer, Bob Kirk (Moderator), Laura Bond, Charles Bottieri, Carl Davis, Jennifer Duggan, Tom Duggan, Debby Kirk, Alexandra (Sam) Lyman, Christina Manuilow, Leilani Nixon, Jim Nowak, Kathy Packard, Debra Pallatto-Fontaine, Tom Singleton, Bruce Staehle, Charlene Swanson, Paula Wilmot

Welcome

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

Opening Devotion

- Rev. Kevin shared from Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10.

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. Tom S./2nd Carl D. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report (Carl D)

- Finished 2021 with a healthy surplus of over \$62,000.
- Pledges were above budgeted and fundraising efforts far exceeded what was expected.
- PPP loan/grant helped us through the year, as well as some off-budget grants (for refrigerator and painting).
- Expenses were a little over budget in some places but substantially under in other places. (See Treasurer's full report.)
- MOTION: to accept the Treasurer's Report. Sam L./2nd Bruce S. Motion passed unanimously.

Pastor's Report (Rev. Kevin D)

- Full report can be viewed on our website.
- Staffing Update
 - Maria Sangiolo has started as our new Music Director and is quickly getting our music ministry coordinated.
 - The Creative Worship Team (Rev. Kevin, Leilani, and Maria) will meet this Saturday for planning.
 - Family Ministries/Life-Long Learning includes Tuesday Bible Study, "Five Loaves" book groups. Paula W. and Rick S. are planning monthly activities/events for families and two monthly Zooms (one for older and one for younger children).
 - Need to start planning the search for a Faith Formation coordinator. This position has been included in the 2022 budget.
 - Plan to launch the Restructuring and Vision & Values efforts.
 - We need to re-engage the technology task force to find solutions for our office and communications technology needs .

- Rev. Kevin recommends that boards and committees plan leadership training to clarify the existing policies, by-laws, and responsibilities in each group.

NEWS BRIEFS

- Outreach (Jen D)
 - Food Insecurity and Hunger Action: The Board of Outreach will hold Lenten discussion groups on the book “Five Loaves, Two Fish, Twelve Volunteers” including one with the author, Elizabeth Mae Magill.
- Trustees and Outreach (Sam L)
 - Planning a vaccination clinic here in February.

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- Nominating Committee (Deb K and Bob K)
 - Appreciation for all those who serve.
 - MOTION from the Nominating Committee: that Council endorse the slate of officers presented, to be brought to the Annual Meeting for vote. Passed with two abstentions.
 - Reminder to outgoing senior board members that they need to call their February meetings and share orientation materials with new leaders.
- Budget for 2022(Sam L)
 - Treasurer’s report is available on the church website.
 - Parsonage:
 - Monthly rent on parsonage is increasing to \$1400.
 - \$9,000 was approved for feasibility study for the potential sale of the parsonage.
 - Providing a parsonage has become an outdated construct.
 - This amount (\$9,000) was budgeted for use over a 3 year period. Since it is available now, it will be set aside to be used as needed.
 - Council voted to endorse the 2022 Budget, as prepared, to be presented at the Annual Meeting. Vote was unanimous with one abstention.
- Preparations for Annual Meeting on January 23rd (Bob K)
 - Meeting will be virtual (Zoom guidance/tutorial available).
 - Please review the Agenda.
 - Encourage all to attend. We need a quorum of 35 church members.
 - Send any updated reports to Rev.Kevin to be sure they are added to the Annual Report.
 - The Annual Report will be posted to our website, hard copies available upon request.

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:02 pm

Closing Prayer: Bob Kirk

Scribe: Laura Bond