

# **First Congregational Church of Woodstock**

## MINUTES of COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, Mar. 8, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

In attendance: Rev. Dr. Kevin Downer, Jim Nowak (Moderator), Laura Bond, Charles Bottieri, Suzanne Cimochoowski, Jennifer Duggan, Tom Duggan, Bob Kirk, Debby Kirk, Kathy Packard, Debra Pallatto-Fontaine, Rick Singh, Tom Singleton, Bruce Staehle, Charlene Swanson, Paula Wilmot

### Welcome

- Moderator Jim Nowak opened the meeting at 7:01 pm.

### Opening Devotion

- Rev. Debbie P-F shared a reading in honor of International Women's Day

### Clerk's Report (Laura B)

- Minutes of the February meeting were approved by Council as submitted.

### Treasurer's Report (Tom D)

- The full report can be viewed on the church website.
- Income and expenses are on track for this time of year.
- Administrative costs are under budget due to open staff positions.
- The Treasurer's report is accepted as presented.

### Pastor's Report (Rev. Kevin D)

- Please read the full Pastor's report which can be viewed on our website.
- Rev. Kevin has created a Google Drive for Council with a folder for each meeting. Individuals can upload their reports to this drive prior to the monthly meeting. After each meeting, reports can be edited as needed and then posted to our website as PDFs. This will reduce the time that staff has to spend organizing those files.
- Rev. Kevin will send out the Google Drive link to everyone.
- The Vision & Values and Restructuring Teams have both met twice since last Council meeting. Both are reviewing their purpose and principles. The Restructuring team has been researching what other churches have done. These processes will include communications with the congregation.
- Rev. Kevin developed a chart for planning and timing of church communications. Please review this in the Pastor's Report and make note of the time frames for different types of communications.
- March 27th Events:
  - Area Conference minister Elizabeth Garrigan-Byerly will be guest preacher.
  - Second Hour with Liz Mae Magill to discuss her book, "Five Loaves, Two Fish, Twelve Volunteers"
  - Putnam Congregational Church will be installing their new pastor, Norman Michaud @3pm.
- Please review "The Change Cycle" presented in the Pastor's Report which explores the stages of change including: Loss, Doubt, Discomfort, Discovery, Understanding, and Integration. This chart is helpful to understand many of the feelings that we may experience with the coming changes

for our church. Often there are feelings of grief and loss before there is clarity and enthusiasm for the future.

- The Restructuring Team will probably plan a 2nd Hour.

#### News Briefs

- Faith Formation (Paula W)
  - The Search Committee for a Faith Formation leader will have its first meeting Thursday April 10th. Please let the team know about any ideas or hopes you have for this process.
  - Rick LaMarre is working with the older youth and has asked the Trustees for permission to use one of the classrooms for team meetings.
- Prayer Chain emails (Jim N)
  - Contact one of the deacons if you would like to be added to the Prayer Chain
  - Linda Chase is in Hospice and Paul Stanton has passed away (Paul's service is being planned for May 21st.)
  - Deb K offered to update the contact cards in the pews to include an option to request being added to the prayer chain.

#### Old Business

- Mask Requirements
  - Rev. Kevin and Senior Deacons have discussed current changes in CDC recommendations and reviewed possible church policy changes with the Trustees.
  - Any changes we make to our guidelines will also apply to all outside groups that use the church building.
  - MOTION: for masks to be optional in the church, with individual groups deciding their own policies. Laura B/2nd Tom S. Motion passed.
  - Announcement will be added to Friday email. Signage will be updated.
  - Bob K will notify Vicki Embree, Pat Monahan and Mark Van der Voort
- Reminder: Church Council Meeting is open to all
  - We'll add an announcement to the weekly email on the Friday before Council meeting and make an announcement during the Sunday service prior to the meeting.
  - Members of the Restructuring Team and Vision & Values Team should be included in Council meetings.
- A list of church leaders is now in the Council Google Drive. Feel free to add/update information to this list.

#### New Business

- The moderator (Jim N) asked for volunteers for opening and closing prayers at our meetings.
- Reminder: Be cautious about what information you put on the church website, such as emails and personal information.
- Deb K - The UCC has a relief fund for Ukraine, check their website, [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org).

Meeting Adjourned @8:21pm

Closing Prayer: Debbie P-F

*Scribe: Laura Bond*