

First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Minutes of Governing Board Meeting

Wednesday Feb. 21, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

**In Attendance:** Rev. Dr. Kevin Downer, Ginny Moylan (Moderator), Charles Bottieri, Suzanne Cimochoowski, Jennifer Duggan, Bruce Staehle, Laura Boies (as clerk), [Carl Davis is away] and Bruce Lyman representing the Community Kitchen.

**Welcome and Opening Devotion**

- Moderator, Ginny Moylan, opened the meeting at 7:05 pm.
- Rev. Kevin shared from “Sacred Rest” by Sandra Dalton-Smith, and a prayer from “The Rest is Worship”.

**Action Items:**

**Community Kitchen Memorandum of Understanding (Bruce Lyman)**

- Review of the current updated MOU document between Community Kitchen of NE Connecticut and FCCW regarding ownership, location, and use of refrigeration and freezer appliances.
- The food procurement person is the only person outside the church who will really need access.
- Another note is that Bruce feels this may help when he applies for a grant from Connecticut Food Share. (Last year’s application was turned down due only to the amount of impact for the community.)
- MOTION: to accept the Memorandum of Understanding as presented. Ginny M., 2nd Jen D. Motion passed unanimously.

**Updates and Briefs:**

**Consent Agenda Format for Reports (Ginny M)**

- This is a meeting procedure where all routine, non controversial items are passed with a single motion.
- Going forward, GB members should review all reports prior to the meeting, then specific points can be discussed at the meeting if necessary.
- MOTION: to accept the January Meeting Minutes, Ministry Report, Facilities Report, and Financial Budget Report. Suzanne C, 2nd Bruce S. Motion passed.

**Finance Team (Suzanne C)**

- We are earning interest on CDs. Several need to be renewed in March. See the finance team’s suggestions in “Investment Strategies”
- The GB reviewed the investment strategy and affirmed the finance team’s plan.
- The New Century Fund is currently in the SNE Conference’s Consolidated Trust Fund which is being closed and transferred to the United Fund (UCC fund). The former fund was 70% stocks and 30% bonds. The United Fund is 60% stocks and 40% bonds. We will consider adjusting the mix on this investment.
- The Parsonage sale should close in the next couple of weeks. The income would be held in a restricted fund and we would only use the interest. The finance team is considering putting it in a bond for a year while they decide where to invest those funds.

**“Churches Growing Together” Workshop (Rev. Kevin)**

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- Sat. Mar. 24, 10-noon led by Rev. Carol Steinbrecher in Harrison Hall.
- Members of 6 churches are joining together, with 24 people signed up so far and up to 40 expected. So far no one from EWCC.
- GB members will handle set up, check-ins, breakfast foods, lunch.

**Next Steps for Governing Board: 2024 Priorities**

- Future Planning: Clarify which path we are on and help the congregation understand that we need to do this work *now*. Use Carol's conversation on the 24th to initiate movement. We may need to follow multiple paths at first in order to find the right one. Goal for this year: clarify which paths are viable and eliminate at least one or two of the five possible paths.
- Plan a Second Hour after the workshop with Carol Steinbrecher to start exploring our options with the congregation.
- Visions and Values Team Retreat - May 5th or June 2nd.
- Establish a 2024 Pastoral Relations Team to set up a new Pastoral Review Process and complete the 2024 Pastoral review.
- The Finance Team would like to work with the GB on how to afford next year's budget. The team is currently looking into energy savings grants, requesting specific funding from the community, and new rental opportunities.
- Do a "Times and Talent" survey. Look into using Google forms, Vanco, printed forms, check Church Windows. Add an incentive?

**Specific GB New Action Items are now in a [separate document](#)**

**Closing Prayer:** Moderator, Ginny M offered the closing prayer.

**Meeting adjourned @8:26pm**