

# First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Minutes of Governing Board Meeting

Wednesday Mar. 13, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

**In Attendance:** Rev. Dr. Kevin Downer, Ginny Moylan (Moderator), Charles Bottieri, Suzanne Cimochowski, Carl Davis [via google meets], Jennifer Duggan, Bruce Staehle, Laura Boies (as clerk)

## Welcome and Opening Devotion

- Moderator, Ginny Moylan, opened the meeting at 7:05 pm.
- Rev. Kevin shared from “The Rest is Worship”.

## Updates and Briefs

- **Consent Items:** Motion to accept the Consent Items (Minutes, Admin. & Ministry, Facilities and Treasurer’s reports). Bruce S, 2nd Rev. Kevin. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Financial Team:** Suzanne reviewed the United Church Funds CTF Account Transition Form for our UCC investments.
  - Motion: to accept the resolution from United Church Funds that we (FCCW) authorize our Governing Board Finance Leader and Treasurer to establish one or more investment accounts with United Church Funds to be invested in any of its fund options. Any future transactions related to FCCW’s future or current accounts may be authorized by the either then-current Governing Board Finance Leader or Treasurer. All individuals authorized by this resolution shall act as fiduciaries and in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws governing activities of fiduciaries and non-profit organizations. Jennifer D, 2nd Charles B. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Retention and Destruction Policies Review**
  - Paper copies of GB minutes are kept in a notebook as well as being maintained electronically.
  - Pertinent emails can be printed or copied to an electronic file to be retained.
  - The Archivist should have hard copies. Note that church record retention may not be the same as archival retention. Review with Bruce Lyman, our Archivist.

## Action Items:

- **Churches Growing Together Workshop with Carol Steinbrecher**
  - About 40 people from various churches attended and shared similar struggles.
  - We were very pleased with Carol as a facilitator.
  - Rev. Kevin will check with Carol on the follow-up information.
- **Pastoral Review**
  - Jennifer volunteered again this year.
  - Bruce S. volunteered to join her.

## Next Steps for GB - Priorities for 2024

- The possible paths that we might take as a congregation:
  - Regeneration
  - Reconfiguration - ie: Yoking, Collaboration, Merging, Reimagining Space Use
  - Winding Down - Closing
  - Closing

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- Bruce S shared writings from Charlie Kuchenbrod's "Which Lane Are You In?" where he describes four similar options:
  - Revitalization and Growth - Keep doing what you're doing but bring in more people. This is a mirage, it doesn't work.
  - Transformation - Creating new ways to do church, refocusing resources (similar to Reconfiguration described above).
  - Legacy Building - winding down.
  - Denial and Indecision - don't do anything and eventually there's no energy or money left.
- The reality seems to be that we need to pursue, and embrace, the second path of Reconfiguration/Transformation or we will be headed to winding down and closing.
  - Ginny recommended SNEUCC's Webinar "Losing Our Building, Finding Our Soul" Thurs. 3/21.
- Share this information with the congregation.
  - 2nd Hour on Palm Sunday, Mar. 24 - Review where we are, share info from Carol's presentation. Discussion of realities and possibilities.
  - 2nd Hour April 14 - Exploring the possible paths.
  - Church Vision Retreat June 9 at Crystal Pond.
- Schedule a conversation with the Vision & Values team in late April.

### **Review proposal from website design company**

- See Minister's Report. We've received an offer to update and redesign our website. Rev. Kevin would like a couple of other people to sit in on a meeting with this company. Bruce S, Carl D and Suzanne C volunteered.

### **Review of New Action Items** (see separate document)

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

**Meeting adjourned @8:22pm**